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DAILY REPORT
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U.S. ADDRESS AT GENEVA CONFERENCE 'MEANINGLESS'

PM271032 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "For the Benefit of Mankind"]

[Text] Geneva February 24 -- The Soviet Union's additional proposals on monitoring [kontrol] measures to ensure the security and interests of all the parties to the future international convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons have evoked much interest at the Disarmament Conference taking place here. Czechoslovak delegate Milos Vejvoda submitted on behalf of a group of socialist countries a document on intensifying work to prepare a draft convention. Hungarian delegate David Meiszter recalled the Soviet Union's unilateral obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and its proposal to freeze the nuclear arms arsenals and the proposal of the Warsaw Pact countries to the NATO members to conclude a treaty on the mutual non-use of military force and the maintenance of relations of peace, and other initiatives. According to him, the adoption of these initiatives would mark a major step towards lessening world tension, strengthening international security and removing the threat of nuclear war.

Eivinn Berg, secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, expressed the belief that the prohibition of chemical weapons should be one of the main items on the agenda of the conference and characterised as positive the latest statement of the Soviet delegation on verification measures and the recent proposal of the Warsaw Pact countries to the NATO members on ridding Europe of chemical weapons. Norway, he added, shows interest in the Soviet Union's draft treaty on the prohibition of the use of force in outer space and from outer space against targets on earth.

The first address of the U.S. delegation to the session proved rather meaningless, unfortunately. The chief delegate held forth at length on the "peaceable intentions" of the U.S. leaders and "the need for joint efforts" to achieve progress but did not go beyond that general rhetoric. A similar tendency makes itself felt in the addresses of delegates from some other Western countries. Calling for compromises, they themselves obviously show no readiness to follow that road and, moreover, reiterate on a number of issues the demands which have already been rejected earlier as contravening the national security interests of other countries.

REAGAN 'BLOCKING' TALKS ON TEST BAN TREATIES

LD250815 Moscow TASS in English 0733 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] New York February 25 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Vladimir Mostovets:

The policy of any government, including the U.S. Administration, is determined by deeds, rather than words. That is why if President Reagan really wants an improvement in relations with the Soviet Union, he should prove this by concrete political actions. This conclusion has been made by well-known American newspaper observer Tom Whicker in a comment on the latest remarks made by the White House chief on his "sincere striving" for broadening a peace dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union. Undoubtedly, he writes in THE NEW YORK TIMES newspaper, the United States has many opportunities to demonstrate its goodwill, especially in arms control.

The United States, for example, as well as the Soviet Union, Wicker recalls, twice committed themselves to direct their efforts towards concluding a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty -- during the signing of the treaty limiting nuclear tests and the treaty on nuclear non-proliferation.

But, despite the official promise, Ronald Reagan is stubbornly blocking talks on this issue. He has been directing his efforts at building up the United States' giant nuclear arsenal, rather than curbing the race of nuclear armaments.

U.S. SENATORS CITED ON SOVIET SKEPTICISM

LD241739 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS -- TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

Addressing a press-conference in the city of Augusta (Maine), American Senators Joseph Biden and William Cohen, who returned from Moscow, pointed out that they had discovered a good deal of scepticism in the Soviet Union about the present U.S. Administration's approach to the talks on the limitation and reduction of arms.

This evaluation by the senators of the mood of the Soviet public is quite realistic, and the scepticism of Soviet people is equally justified.

The point is that the practical deeds of the present United States Administration are in conflict with its public statements about "readiness for a search for sensible agreements." Washington continues showing the same thoughtless attitude to the sharp destabilisation of the military-political situation as a result of the commencement of deployment in the FRG, Britain and Italy of American missiles with flight time to important targets in the USSR from six to twelve minutes. The Pentagon spokesmen stress that the deployment of new Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe will continue on schedule.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and other representatives of the American Administration declare that they do not intend to put forward new proposals on the resolution of the problem of nuclear weapons in Europe as, they claim, "this is a path that leads nowhere." Consequently the U.S. Department of State has in its portfolio, as before, only the notorious pseudozero plan, providing for the total scrapping of all Soviet medium-range missiles all over the USSR's territory without adequate steps being taken by NATO.

At the present time, Washington is making publicity statements on its readiness to return to the table of negotiations in Geneva any time. But, to all appearances, the United States Administration continues clinging tenaciously to its old proposition: "NATO's rearmament by means of fruitless talks on disarmament."

The Soviet Union proposes a mutually acceptable way to a resumption of talks on nuclear weapons in Europe, by declaring that should the USA and the other NATO countries display readiness to return to the situation, which existed in Europe prior to the start of deployment in the continent of American medium-range nuclear missiles, then the USSR will also be ready to do so.

Washington is now issuing streams of "peaceable" rhetoric in the hope to deceive the world public opinion and make the Europeans put up with the deployment of the death-carrying Pershing and cruise missiles in their territory.

But to make progress on the issue of the limitation of nuclear weapons in Eruope, it takes not rhetoric but Washington's and NATO's practical deeds to normalise the military-political situation in the continent.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD261838 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 26 Feb 84

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Gennadiy Ivanovich Gerasimov, editor in chief of MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI; Nikolay Ivanovich Yefimov, first deputy editor in chief of IZVESTIYA; and Vitaliy Sergeyevich Sobolev, All-Union Radio commentator]

Party, State Continuity

[Text] [Sovolev] Hello, comrades. It has been 2 weeks since the February CPSU Central Committee Plenum. In that time the leaders of our party and state, led by Comrade Chernenko, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, have done much important work in the sphere of foreign policy. The latest session of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo discussed the results of the conversations held with the heads of foreign delegations who came to attend the funeral of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. Approving these conversations, the Politburo again stressed the immutability and continuity of the course of our party and state toward strengthening the friendship and cohesion of the fraternal socialist countries, solidarity with peoples struggling for their national liberation, for peace and social progress, toward implementing the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutually-beneficial cooperation among states with differing socio-political systems. In a word, the immovable Leninist principles of Soviet foreign policy were reaffirmed. While implementing enforced and essential measures to strengthen its security and that of its allies, our country is lending all its efforts to end the arms race and improve the international situation. We clearly state, said Comrade Chernenko, that the USSR will continue a policy of peace -- sound, just peace for all peoples, great and small.

[Yefimov] Continuity in our times means that the USSR is a reliable partner in the foreign policy arena. Our country is implementing all the international agreements we have signed precisely and meticulously, and has no intention of violating them. From across the ocean we often hear it asserted, both by the U.S. President himself and by his advisers, that if they need to renounce one international agreement or another to attain military or other supremacy over the USSR, they will not hesitate to renounce everything signed by their predecessors in the White House. Of course such an approach is equivalent to anarchy in international affairs. We are opposed to such an approach.

[Sobolev] In ruling circles in the West the word "dialogue" has recently become fashionable. There is talk on both sides of the Atlantic about readiness for dialogue. Our country is, of course, also in favor of dialogue, but dialogue on the basis of equality and equal security, and of mutual consideration for the legitimate interests of the partners in dialogue. The conditions needed for dialogue have been stated many times, among others, at the February plenum, and afterward. Above all, it is vital that the NATO countries renounce their attempts to upset the existing military-strategic equilibrium.

The constructive Soviet proposals on various international problems remain in force. They apply to medium-range nuclear weapons in Europe, to preventing an arms race in space, and to other questions of disarmament. This week our country issued a new peace-loving initiative on chemical weapons.

Dialogue With U.S.

[Gerasimov] On the subject of dialogue, Vitaliy Sergeyevich, for 3 years the Reagan administration was opposed to such dialogue, or at any rate not prepared for it; and now it is in favor of it. What has happened? Why has there been such a transformamation, and is it possible to link to it hopes for an improvement in Soviet-American relations? It has become known that the man conducting Reagan's reelection campaign, Senator Paul Laxalt -- a friend of his, incidentally -- has given this explanation of the metamorphosis that Reagan has undergone. Laxalt said: We told Reagan that during our journeys about the country we discovered concern among the people about a new cold war. They do not like to see two superpowers not talking to each other. So the theme of dialogue appeared in the speeches of the candidate for the presidency, as distinct from the President's speeches.

As you recall, in Moscow Bush met the Soviet leader, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, and during their conversation he was told that Soviet-American relations must be built on a basis of equality and equal security, with mutual consideration for legitimate interests of the other, and non-interference in the other's internal affairs. The American guest was also told that a manifestation by the U.S. side of practical readiness to adhere to these principles would make it possible to embark upon an improvement in relations between the two countries. But this practical readiness is what is still lacking, so far, in all U.S. statements, including Reagan's latest statements at his news conference on Wednesday. Reagan hears from almost all sides that his own words about constructive dialogue should be backed up by tangible, constructive actions or proposals. Observers are writing about this, and many people are talking about it. If the opposite is the case, as Leslie Gelb, a NEW YORK TIMES observer, wrote, Soviet officials will see in the rhetorical olive branch proffered by Reagan a political trick designed to give the American people the impression that Reagan is supposedly a man of peace.

[Yefimov] But, Gennadiy Ivanovich, what he is offering can hardly be called even an olive branch. Can it really be a branch, or a twig, if they say at the same time: We will negotiate only from a position of strength? This runs directly counter to our main principle; the only principle that makes any negotiations possible -- negotiations on the principle of equality and equal security.

[Gerasimov] Here, Nikolay Ivanovich, I can add that this difference leads to the different positions held by the United State's NATO allies and Japan, and by the United States itself. A few days ago Yasuhiro Nakasone, the prime minister of Japan, stated that perhaps the time had come for the Western bloc to review and relax its economic sanctions against the USSR, with the aim of improving U.S.-Soviet relations. Similar statements can be heard in Europe, too, but the United States favors stiffening these economic sanctions.

A few days ago, the British FINANCIAL TIMES contained an interesting analytical article on this subject, on the disagreements between the United States and its allies over the USSR. Western Europe and Japan, of course, recognize reality. They recognize the Soviet Union. But the Reagan administration, the British paper points out, does not wish to recognize reality. The FINANCIAL TIMES writes: If Reagan is elected to a second term, disagreements between the United States and Western Europe on the question of how to build relations with the USSR may become still more strained. That is to say -- I see this as a question of principle -- if you want constructive dialogue, you really must acknowledge your negotiating partner as your equal, and acknowledge his interests.

[Sovolev] In order to ease the international situation and to improve prospects for its development it is very important to agree on large-scale measures for the strengthening of trust. Here a lot could be done by the conference in Stockholm. The USSR and fraternal socialist countries are proposing that all nuclear powers should follow the example of the Soviet Union and pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. Other contributions to the creation of an atmosphere of trust could also be an understanding on the non-use of armed force in general; the non-use of force; the creation of nuclear-free zones in strategically important regions; and, as we have already said, the liquidation of chemical weapons. However, Western participants in the Stockholm conference, seem inclined not to solve fundamental problems: They commit the talks to less essential, technical questions.

Swedish Journalists' Naivete

Nikolay Ivanovich, you were recently in the Swedish capital. What are your impressions from your meetings and conversations in Stockholm and other Swedish towns?

[Yefimov] What can I say? Perhaps the most interesting, or very interesting things are not necessarily somewhere faraway. Journalists often travel to the end of world to find something interesting, yet it can be often be found quite near, in this case just on the other side of the Baltic Sea. What is it that strikes one in Sweden? Swedish people have fought no war for almost 2 centuries. They can only be envied in this respect. I have traveled a lot in their country and have never seen a flame buring over the ashes of an unknown warrior, nor an inscription on a common grave. I wanted to know whether this is appreciated by the Swedish people. Without a doubt it is. And I could see that they understand more and more than even a neutral country can be destroyed in the flames of a nuclear disaster. It is important to avert war and this is what they now believe. The Swedes have supported the Finnish proposals to turn the north of Europe into a nuclear-free zone. The present government has proposed the creation of a non-nuclear zone in central Europe, which, in their opinion, would contribute to detente in Europe. The Soviet Union, as it is known, has supported both these proposals. It is symbolic that the conference of 33 European states, and also the United States and Canada, on measures to strengthen trust, security and disarmament in Europe is meeting in Stockholm. All the Swedes I talked with are flattered by this. All said that neutral countries, including Sweden itself, have to play a more active role in strengthening detente and peace.

In Sweden, another fact catches one's eye. The bourgeois press of this neutral country sometimes behaves toward our country in a much more hostile way than the press of NATO countries. Preparing for the journey. I re-read works by August Strindberg, a very interesting writer -- unfortunately not much published in our country, but admired in their time by Blok and Gorkiy. His novel "Black Banners" describes a new newspaper published by one of the heroes of the book. The few people who receive the new newspaper, Strindberg writes, notice little by little that they are living in an illusory world where everything is topsy-turvy, distorted and poisoned, not so much by what is the newspaper, as by that which is not. The same can be said now about the present bourgeois press of Sweden. If the newspaper described by Strindberg was read by only a few, as the author writes, today there is a mass press read by many, by millions. There is extremely scant information about the Soviet Union in this press. And to use words of Strindberg himself: Much of that information is topsy-turvy. In one very large editorial office, while talking to editors -- and this was a very heated meeting -- I asked: Can you name one positive piece of material published in your paper in the last 2 or 3 months about the Soviet Union...

[Gerasimov, interrupting] Unfortunately, Nikolay Ivanovich, I also have to say, having returned from a trip to California with a group of Soviet journalists, that I can only confirm that unfortunately, the press, and particularly the provincial American press, writes little about the Soviet Union, particularly about our internal life, and it says only bad things.

[Yefimov] Gennadiy Ivanovich, after my question the discussion became even more heated and continued for another 1 and 1/2 hours. However, I received no answer to my question: The editors were unable to name a single item. By meeting Swedes, one can sense not only a shortage of information about our country, but also great interest in us. They ask many questions: serious and naive, sharp and calm. However, readers are constantly fed with the mythical Soviet threat. Someone in Sweden has an extremely great interest in endless searches for foreign submarines in its fiords. If one is to believe Swedish newspapers they are even beginning to surface in the center of Stockholm, opposite the Royal Palace.

[Gerasimov] However, one Swedish paper, AFTONBLADET published an article a few days ago -- a very caustic article, written by British Vice Admiral Ian McGeoch. This vice admiral held a distinguished post in the British Admiralty concerning antisubmarine defense. He was in charge of NATO submarine activity in the East Atlantic. This means he is a specialist with regard to submarines. He wrote very caustically, proving that all this is imagined, and that Sweden suffers from a so-called periscope disease. Obviously, this disease is convenient for someone, from the point of view of anti-Sovietism.

[Yefimov] This was published, in what in my opinion is a trade union newspaper; however, large mass papers did not publish it.

U.S. Presidential Campaign

[Sobolev] Continuing our program I would like to say that there is much material for analysis now concerning the topic of elections and the broader topic of democracy. The first elections in the series of what are known as primaries, took place in Iowa, in the United States. These give an indication of strengths in the struggle for the presidential seat. American newspapers wrote that those close to the President advised him not to go to Iowa so as to avoid a scandal. It is a mainly agricultural state, and farmers are in a poor situation and very dissatisfied with the government. However, the first test of strength is very important, and Democratic Party contenders for the nomination were very active in Iowa -- a whole team of eight people were there -- so the President also decided to go.

According to American observers, the President, speaking to the electorate, tried to convince them that if a Democrat was in his place, the situation would be even worse. He also attacked his opponents in the sphere of foreign policy. It is known that Democrats consider it necessary to cut military programs and to strive for an agreed disarmament. The President here too had an answer for them. I think it is better to stop paraphrasing and start quoting. Listen to what the U. S. President said: I know, he said, that if they -- that is the Democrats -- were at the helm of power, our defense would become weaker and weaker. Troops would possibly have landed on Grenada. However, they would not have been American troops and they would not have been applauded by the people of Grenada. And it would perhaps not have been possible to save our American students. Just imagine, comrades, the picture presented to the listeners of the President: A fleet is approaching Grenada, they are not American; Cuban and even Soviet troops emerge from them and start destroying those likeable and defenseless American students.

Will anybody in agricultural Iowa, any simple villager, believe in these horrors? I think he will, and not only in villages, but in towns too. Americans have been shown so many fantastic films in which soldiers under a red flag invade the territories of the Western Christian world, and what nightmares take place after this, that the President had only to give a little push to the imagination of the listeners. True, a fictional film is one thing, and the words of an official figure something else. However, such are the methods used in the election campaign struggle.

[Gerasmiov] Nonetheless, Vitaliy Sergeyevich, no matter who you ask now in America to name the next President, he will reply: Reagan -- even those Americans who will be voting against Reagan. Of course, it is still only February, and the elections will be taking place in November, and a great deal can still happen, so they are making predictions for today. Why is this happening? In the first place because the Democrats are fighting among themselves and undermining each other's authority, trying to trip each other. Glen against Mondale, for example, and the other way round, too. So there is no unity, and the voters does not yet know what will be the Democrats' choice. And even when this choice has been made this candidate of theirs will to some extent be a little discredited by his own opponents among his own Democratic Party.

Reagan, of course, has the advantage of being the man who is in the White House. Furthermore it is said that he is lucky; the economy is now going to get just a little bit better. It is not that good, all in all, but inflation is getting less and unemployment has fallen a little. Americans in discussions are therefore saying that Reagan's chances particularly as far as domestic policy is concerned, are not all that bad. They also give the following paradox: While there are many people who are dissatisfied with Reagan's policy, including people like the blacks, and women, nevertheless, there are many who are satisfied with the man himself.

[Sobolev] With his personality.

[Gerasimov] His personality is popular, but they do point to foreign policy. There are two points here that might hamper Reagan: the first, and we have already mentioned it, as Soviet-American relations. In the words of his campaign manager, the voter wants America and the Soviet Union to speak to each other. And the second problem is Lebanon. And so he, Reagan, wants to remove the problem of Soviet-American relations by holding out an olive branch to us, inviting us to take part in a constructive dialogue, but not backing it up -- so far at least -- with any practical steps. And as far as Lebanon is concerned, he now wants to act in such a way as to avoid once again being reproached over the deaths of American marines. He is therefore withdrawing them onto ships that have the possibility of continuing to interfere in Lebanese affairs, firing at Lebanese patriots from a safe distance. But American lives will not be lost. And this is very important; as Americans explained it to me, it is so that Reagan does not lose popularity.

[Yefimov] Other people's lives are of no consequence on this occasion.

[Gerasimov] Of course .

Elections in Nicaragua Set

[Sobolev] Continuing the election theme, it has to be said that this week it was announced that presidential and parliamentary elections will be taking place in Nicaragua at the beginning of November.

The Western bourgeois press has already set in motion a frantic whirlwind of slander and provocation around these elections, and has done so with an extremely long-range aim. I have quoted President Reagan's words about the people of Grenada allegedly applauding the American Marines. In the Western press this idea is dragged out in a very painstaking way: They even publish photographs, like one showing, for example, U.S. Marines alongside dark-skinned little boys. The little boys are more than likely asking for pennies, since their life did not, of course, become more wealthy following the invasion. But in the text they are trying to make the reader believe that the little boys are thanking the Marines.

Now, preparing for an invasion of Nicaragua, Washington would very much like to convince the whole world, and primarily its own compatriots, that Nicaragua will welcome interventionists with open arms. But the results of the elections might well and truly spoil this propaganda. So the Western ideologists are attacking democracy in Nicaragua along the whole front. From Washington they are calling upon the bouregois opposition to boycott the elections. Under American instructions the counterrevolutionaries, the Somoza people, are putting forward demands and issuing threats.

[Gerasimov] On the one hand, Vitaliy Sergeyevich, the United States is demanding that Nicaragua allegedly become a more democratic country, and on the other -- only when the date of the elections is fixed. Once again, you see, they are not satisfied.

[Sobolev] The Western press tries to create the impression that the Sandinists do not have all that much support from the population. In a country that has inherited ruin from Somoza and been compelled to drive off counterrevolutionary bands there are difficulties in every way, suggesting to their readers a false impression of the Nicaraguans' feelings. Western correspondents keep asking Nicaragua's leaders whether they won't nevertheless cancel the elections, and they are told in reply that in the event of an American invasion or an attack by Honduras then indeed there will be no elections. Daniel Ortega, the Nicaraguan leader, noted that as the Sandinists will undoubtedly inflict a crushing defeat upon the opposition in the elections, the Americans will start a noisy propaganda campaign and will try to dispute the results of the voting. In order to deprive the Americans of the opportunity of doing this an election statute has been drawn up guaranteeing the Nicaraguan people the freedom to state their will. These will indeed be the first democratic elections in Nicaragua, and the fuss being made by Western propaganda and by official circles in the West is the best proof that the imperialist leaders do not expect a result from the voting that will be favorable for them.

Lebanon Situation Reviewed

In discussing the situation concerning the U.S. elections we have already talked about the psychology of the Americans and the influence that this has on policy. Here is another example, in connection with the situation in the Near East. The American NEWSWEEK magazine brought a sensational piece of good news to its readers: It turns out that the shots fired by the battleship "New Jersey" cost them nothing.

[Yefimov] Yes, they are shells left over from the last war.

[Gerasimov] This indicates the good quality of American shells, but it also indicates that Americans do indeed evaluate very many problems, nearly all of them, through their pocketbook.

[Sobolev] Yes.

[Gerasimov] If it doesn't affect their pocketbook, then it's alright.

[Sobolev] And in general, American military morale is strong if the soldiers are able to kill while they themselves are in a place of safety. It is indeed under conditions where it can go unpunished that the crew of the "New Jersey" is firing upon Lebanese settlements. They are behind the armor of their turrets in the middle of some 40 or so NATO ships, and they fire upon settlements as if they were in a shooting gallery. Several times they have fired off 150 shells simultaneously, and now it turns out that these shells cost nothing. However, events surrounding Lebanon are shaping up in such a way that even a comfortable and to some extent even expense-free war like this is ending in defeat. Defeat and complete failure -- these are the very words used by the American press itself to describe the results of U.S. policy on Lebanon.

[Yefimov] And not just the American press. A few days ago, in a comment on Reagan's latest press conference, which touched upon questions connected with the Near East crisis, the British TIMES wrote that never before had the U.S. President looked so nervous and felt so uncomfortable. And indeed it is difficult for him to justify something that is impossible to justify.

[Sobolev] A lot of publicity is being given to the evacuation of troops belonging to the so-called Multinational Forces. But far less publicity is being given to the fact that some of these forces, and not just Americans but also French troops, are remaining behind. Meanwhile, the Israeli troops who occupied southern Lebanon are showing signs of wanting to march northwards again.

[Gerasimov] Yes. The U.S. Marines move out. The Israelis move in.

[Sobolev] But so far the Marines are not going very far away. Generally speaking they are within sight of the Lebanese shores. As far as Israel is concerned, THE WASHINGTON POST says that it is thinking in terms of a more or less indefinite occupation, which might last for many years, if not decades. Generally speaking the redistribution of roles between the United States and Israel with regard to the Lebanon is now an obvious reality.

[Yefimov] Yes, you are right. According to Secretary of State Shultz, for the Americans the landing near Beirut has not turned out to be a clean and easy operation on the lines of the Grenada operation. It has not been a clean operation. This has to be admitted, whether you like it or not. They hoped that they could use military force to foist on Lebanon an agreement with Israel that would be advantageous to Tel Aviv and Washington. But the strategic allies overlooked one small thing. They forgot that the humiliation of Lebanon and the forcible imposition of an agreement on it would evoke not just a surge of protest but could also unify all its opposition forces. And this is what has happened. Now even President al-Jumayyil himself is prepared to abandon the agreement with Israel.

Yes, you are right. The White House is now twisting and turning. It is trying to justify its actions and to evade the issue. According to the U.S. President, the American troops were to be sent in for a month and a half. They spent a year and a half there -- to strengthen peace, of course, according to that self-same Reagan. But all this is merely a verbal screen for the true objectives. The true objectives were explained by President Pertini of Italy, one of the NATO allies of the United States. Let's be frank, he said, the Americans are not in Lebanon to strengthen peace, but only to protect Israel. Well, the NATO ally obviously sees and better understands this. Yes, the Americans are now retreating.

But, alas, the military interference is continuing. In the first place the 16-inch guns of the battleship "New Jersey," which were paid for long ago, are still shelling Lebanon. Secretary of State Shultz has just told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the U.S. warships and aircraft will continue to hit targets in Lebanon even after the evacuation of the U.S. Marines. Why will they do this? What is the excuse for such actions. The aim is to defend U.S. citizens and the U.S. Embassy, Shultz declared. That is what he said. It is no longer for the sake of peace, for the support of a Lebanese Government which is to the liking of the United States. The aim is now to protect U.S. citizens, as on Grenada.

[Gerasimov] The world has already heard this excuse.

[Yefimov] It has. Secondly, one cannot rule out the possibility that the strategic allies, that is, Israel and the United States, may have exchanged roles. The Americans are saying to Israel, as it were: We have tried but not succeeded. Now you try. Hence the recent Israeli raids in the direction of Beirut, as have been reported in Soviet newspapers.

U.S. Domestic Situation

[Sobolev] Returning to the subject of the U.S. elections, I would like to add that the economic situation, which appears to be improving, will have a very serious impact on the outcome of the elections. A certain revival is now being intensively exploited by official propaganda in order to benefit Republican candidates. But the U.S. Association of Private Enterprise Economists [as heard] sent out a questionnaire to almost 250 of its members. Most of them predicted a fresh downturn in the next 12-18 months. They are led to this conclusion by an analysis of the consequences of the gigantic budget deficit and the large foreign trade balance deficit. And the New York Stock Exchange, a very sensitive barometer of the economic situation, is already describing it in unfavorable terms. The overall value of shares has fallen this year by $150 billion. Financial specialist (Harkins) said of this that the market is behaving in a way that suggests that we are on the threshold of a new crisis. Kirkland, leader of the U.S. trade union federation AFL-CIO, put it this way: The administration has done nothing to solve the country's economic problems, which are ticking away like a time bomb. Budget cuts in social service spending not only mean a worsening of life for ordinary Americans. They also affect the country's future if you bear in mind spending on education.

[Yefimov] In their election speeches both the U.S. President and the rivals sometimes speak far more frankly about the country's internal problems than they would do normally. Admittedly they are indeed saying now that Americans in Grenada, in Lebanon, and in other places need to be rescued. But if one can believe the current U.S. President, Americans need to be rescued, above all, in the United States itself -- and, what's more, in the schools. In an address to the congress of National Association of Secondary School Principals, Reagan made a very eloquent admission, which probably needs no further comment. Here is what he said: The most staggering thing is that 10 percent of all 17-year olds in the United States are considered to be virtually illiterate. There continue to be a great number of reports, Reagan continued, about school dropouts who cannot read or write as well as they should. In 35 U.S. states, one only needs to study maths, for example, for 1 year in order to qualify for a diploma certifying graduation from secondary school. The President cited the following statistic: Every month over 2 million high school pupils fall victim to crimes committed in schools themselves. This is not ordinary childish mischief, but crime, to quote Reagan.

In his address to this association Reagan drew the following conclusion: If our schools are to return to the pursuit of knowledge, we msut banish crime and violence from them. But it is one thing to talk about crime and another to tackle it.

The way they tackle crime was shown by something that happened the other day. The U.S. secretary of the treasury proposed that spending on the popular Drug Enforcement Administration program be cut. And drugs are, of course, one of the most important reasons for crime. The money could not be found for this program. The money goes to another department — the Department of Defense, naturally.

[Sobolev] At this point, comrade, I will close our program. Thank you for your attention. All the best.

'STUDIO 9' PROGRAM FOCUSES ON MIDDLE EAST

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["Studio 9" program moderated by Professor Valentin Sergeyevich Zorin, political observer of Soviet television and radio, with Professor Karen Nersesovich Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, and Aleksandr Yevgenyevich Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer]

[Text] [Zorin] Hello, comrades. We are meeting with you again at Studio 9 of the Ostankino Television Center to discuss topical and important problems of world politics. Taking part in our talk today are Professor Karen Nersesovich Brutents, deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee and Aleksandr Yevgenyevich Bovin, IZVESTIYA political observer.

The death of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, an outstanding contemporary figure who did so much to implement the Soviet state's peace-loving Leninist foreign policy course, gave rise to profound sorrow in the Soviet Union and outside our country's borders. The world public paid tribute to the outstanding qualities of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, a state figure of world stature.

However, at the same time, questions were brought up in some political back streets [politicheskiye zadvorki] about whether Comrade Andropov's passing would affect the foreign policy course of the Soviet Union.

In these conditions the statement of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who expressed our party's resolve to ensure continuity in its policies, made a profound impression on the world.

The foreign policy of the Soviet state is not by nature transient [ne nosit konyunkturnogo kharaktera], does not pursue certain immediate aims, and is not directed at obtaining short-term advantages. It is determined by long-term principles and proceeds from Leninist tenets of the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems.

Lenin said that the only correct policy is a principled policy and that the more acute this conflict situation or that international crisis is, the more graphic the correctness of this Leninist tenet becomes.

One of the hottest spots in world politics now -- probably the hottest spot -- is the situation which has taken shape in the Middle [blizhniy] East, and particularly in Lebanon, which brings into focus that area's complexities and problems. I think it would be correct to begin our discussion with an analysis of this situation. Karen Nersesovich, what can you say in describing the situation which has presently arisen in Lebanon?

[Brutents] Yes. There is a lot behind the Lebanon topic: Bloody civil war, the seemingly unbearable sufferings of the people, and their courage and steadfastness -- the courage and steadfastness of a small nation that has doomed the imperialist war machine to impotence.

Events in Lebanon have significance far beyond the country's borders. I think there is an important junction here of both regional and international politics.

First I would like to go back a little and talk about the prewar years in Lebanon. Now when we see on television demolished Lebanese cities and settlements and the somber skeletons of Beirut buildings, it is not easy to imagine Lebanon as it was 9 or 10 years ago.

Nevertheless, in many ways it is a special country. For many years it was something of an island of tranquility in the stormy waters of the Middle East. The Lebanese people's industriousness, and steadfastness in life and their sharpness is well known, and the adroitness of the Lebanese bourgeoisie -- its inclination towards financial operations, its enterprise, and its striving for the good life -- greatly determined the fact that during those years Lebanon was called the Switzerland of the Middle East, and Beirut the Paris of the Middle East.

It is characteristic that even during the most distressing days of Lebanon's ordeals, the Lebanese currency was the most stable in the region.

But of course a complex socioeconomic and political mosaic and whole tangle of contradictions was hidden behind this prosperous facade. A specific feature of Lebanon, which fully made itself known during these events, was the sectarian religious and communal barriers. According to estimates -- since accurate date does not exist -- nearly 1 million Shi'ite Muslims; 700,000 Maronites -- followers of one of the branches of Catholicism; 700,000 to 800,000 Sunnis; nearly 300,000 Druze -- also adhering to the Islamic religion; about 250,000 Armenians; and hundreds of thousands of other Orthodox Christians, Syrians and so on, lived here in 1974.

Moreover, these barriers were also consolidated in Lebanon's social system. It arose that historically the Christians, who once had a numerical superiority, occupied an advantageous position in its state structure.

It is understandable that...

[Bovin interrupts] In other words, one should probably explain here that, say, take the Lebanese Parliament: There a certain number of places is assigned to every community. The Christian Maronites always have so many seats, Shi'ites have so many seats, and Druze so many seats. There is no need for elections or anything there. In other words, this community structure is already consolidated on the political level, and it appears that the president can only be a Christian...

[Brutents interrupts] A Maronite.

[Bovin] And the prime minister can only be a Muslim.

[Brutents] A Sunni.

[Bovin] Yes, a Sunni. And so on. Generally, everything is distributed according to these sectarian constraints. This is very interesting about Lebanon

[Brutents] Yes. However, it should be well understood and clearly conceived that social contradictions and social conflicts are concealed behind these sectarian boundaries, in particular the struggle for influence between the Muslim and Christian bourgeoisie.

The complex and long history of Lebanon left a legacy -- a phenomenon unusual for the last quarter of the 20th century -- such as the presence of strong clans relying on their own armed detachments. In short, objective grounds for Lebanon's internal complications and even conflicts did exist.

However, one may confidently say that these conflicts -- that is the contradictions that did not arise today -- would not have taken the form of bloody clashes -- in contemporary conditions -- if not for the interference of external forces. These forces played on these contradictions while infringing on the independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon and hindered every possible national dialogue.

Who are these forces? The question is natural. It is clear that they are Israel and the United States. In regard to Israel and the policies of its ruling circles, here the situation is more or less clear. Unfortunately they are fairly consistent in pursuing their aggressive course.

Occupation of Lebanese land is continuing: 25 percent of the country's territory and 20 percent of its population remain under Israeli control and one can see no signs that the Israeli leadership intends to leave Lebanon alone.

The most that the Israeli leadership is talking about now is a retreat to the line of the Zakhrani River, and this signifies that they propose to leave southern Lebanon under constant Israeli occupation. To this I would add that such a variant is by no means dictated by humanitarian considerations, but pure military necessity.

The fact is that the Israeli occupation forces are now suffering very perceptible losses. More perceptible because, as you probably know, precisely Israeli experience gave rise to the saying: Military victory and demographic defeat. And if we take into account that only during the period of occupation the Israelis suffered losses whose level amounts to about two-thirds of those that they suffered during Operation Peace for Galilee, that is the invasion of Lebanon, then the quite weighty arguments in favor of this redeployment will become clear.

[Zorin] ren Nersesovich, one should probably aso add to this the very excessive economic burden when Israel is bearing in this connection.

[Brutents] Of course. However, I do not think that it will be seriously reduced if such a withdrawal is implemented. The fact that unfortunately Israeli policy is not changing its substance is also indicated by the latest actions.

The fact is that in recent days the Israeli leadership decided, apparently in view of the prospects of the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, to loudly announce its presence on the Lebanese political stage. Unfortunately, it did this in its characteristic manner. Tank columns followed by infantry columns came right up to Beirut while Israeli planes repeatedly bombed various regions of Lebanon.

Well, I repeat, all is more or less clear regarding Israeli policy. So, the question should rather be primarily about U.S. policy. Well, I will immediately say that in connection with Lebanon another inglorious page has been written into the history of U.S. Middle East policy.

As you know, the Americans attempted to use the military and political results of Israeli aggression to design a Middle East settlement plan suitable for themselves. That is how the notorious Reagan plan appeared.

However, the Arab countries rejected it. It turned out to be, as the Western press wrote, stillborn. Then the Americans concentrated their efforts primarily on Lebanon, and the cornerstone of the intended enterprise bacame the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of 17 May last year.

The United States came out as its architect, and it seemed that it was achieving three or even four aims in one stroke. Which ones? Namely, to consolidate a pro-American regime in Lebanon, simultaneously doomed to dependence on Israel and prepared to support U. S. military presence under the banner of the so-called Multinational Forces; further, to alienate another Arab state, following Egypt, from the front opposing Israeli aggression, involving it in the course of the Camp David policy and the course of separate settlements with Israel; to complicate the position of Syria, the fundamental Arab link in the present situation in opposing U.S. Israeli plans; and finally, on the basis of the success in Lebanon, to generally consolidate U.S. positions in the Arab world and create more weighty preconditions for increasing pressure on the Palestinians in order to drive them as well into the embrace of Camp David and the Reagan plan.

Well, the fact that the majority of Lebanese and almost all Lebanese political parties opposed the agreement did not, to all appearances, disturb the Americans very much.

In this event, as may be expected, they relied on the Lebanese Army, which they began to frenziedly arm and also, and perhaps primarily, on the Multinational Forces, on its squadron, on its planes, and on the 16-inch guns of the battleship New Jersey which in fact were soon set into motion.

All this, this whole line, if one assesses it quite objectively and quite calmly, in my opinion reflected the complete lack of knowledge by those who determined U.S. policy both in the lessons of history and in purely Lebanese realities.

[Bovin] The real distribution of forces there today.

[Brutents] Yes. I would even like to cite an assessment made by one of the leaders of the German Social Democrats Hans-Jeurgen Wisniewski. He is a man who, as a matter of fact, knows Arab problems quite well. He called U.S. behavior political dilettantism. In my opinion this is very close to the truth.

Concurrently with all these actions the Americans, contrary to their officially proclaimed peace mission, attempted in every way possible to block attempts to initiate a national dialogue. They hindered it with the help of all kinds of intrigues.

[Zorin] In other words, they hindered these various Lebanese communities from finding some kind of common language.

[Brutents] Yes, they thought they were capable, with their military clout, to solve the problems and that all kinds of talks and consideration of various interests -- and the national interests of Lebanon are not compatible with this Lebanese-Israeli agreement -- are an unnecessary luxury, that things could be managed without this. I would even (?suspect) that with their self-assurance the Americans let down their Lebanese allies, prevented them from correctly assessing the situation and the significance of the intra-Lebanese dialogue and national concord.

[Bovin] Al-Jumayyil believed the Americans, believed that the Americans could keep him afloat indefinitely supported by his military force.

[Brutents] The question was not only of keeping him afloat. The matter lay in imposing precisely that kind of order, to impose the Lebanese-Israeli agreement on all who rejected it. I repeat that this was the overwhelming majority of Lebanese. Now since that was how it was, the results were not slow in appearing.

The struggle against the agreement acquired a truly national character while U.S. interference, shelling from ships and air strikes, simply strengthened the resolve of the Lebanese not to allow United States to dictate its will to them. And when on 2 February units of the Lebanese Army attacked Shi'ite suburbs of Beirut this served as a signal for a general action. And then the genuine correlation of forces was demonstrated. In a matter of several hours West Beirut found itself under the control of the National Patriotic Forces while the Multinational Forces were suddenly faced with an unpleasant and awkward question: How to get out of the Lebanese quagmire?

[Zorin] It is always easier to get into a quagmire than to get out of it. This is an old truism. Well, I think that we should now dwell on the role of another force. Aleksandr Yevgenyevich, don't you think that they made a mistake in Washington by underestimating the role of Syria?

[Bovin] Of course it seems so because this was not the only mistake made in Washington and Karen Nersesovich quite correctly said that the Americans in reality failed to understand the situation entirely. They overestimated Israel's possibilities in Lebanon. They overestimated their own possibilities and underestimated the role of Syria.

In fact Syria's position, if we view it in connection with the Lebanese crisis, is determined by a whole series of factors. It is sufficient simply to look at a map. Now when the Americans say that they have vital interests in Lebanon, it is permissible to have some doubts. But when the Syrians speak about their interests, this is really determined by historic, geographic, and geopolitical factors.

Now Syria is naturally interested in having a stable and steady state as a neighbor, with a government, which we will say, could understand and consider the interests and concerns of Syria. Besides, this particular interest of Syria is recognized by the League of Arab States because it was precisely Syrian troops which always formed the backbone of these inter-Arab forces for maintaining peace and later, when the other countries withdrew their contingents, it was tacitly considered, they agreed with Syrian troops remaining there.

The fact of Camp David and that Egypt withdrew from the game considerably worsened the strategic position of Syria for understandable reasons. It literally remained one on one in the struggle with Israel, which continued to occupy its lands, and accordingly, in the struggle against the Americans.

Now what happened as a result? It turned out that the Syrians, first of all, managed to block this second Camp David. They managed to block Israeli and U.S. plicy aimed at turning Lebanon into a puppet of Israel (?and) the Americans. And it became quite obvious -- and I think that this has been understood now even in Washington -- that without Syria, in defiance of Syria, a settlement in Lebanon is impossible.

I will cite an extract from a statement of the Lebanese Foreign Minister Salim. He was asked a few days ago about the 17 May agreement, and he said the following: As any Arab country has a right to conclude agreements guaranteeing its independence and sovereignty, we have the right to conclude agreements guaranteeing the interests of Lebanon. At the same time I declare that any agreement that does not guarantee the interests of Syria or any other agreement not coordinated with Syria cannot exist. I declare this publicly, the Lebanese foreign minister said.

Generally, this is a characteristic statement and it reflects the situation with sufficient clarity. Besides what occurred there, of course it raised the stature of Syria in the Arab World and its ability to influence the solution of the Middle East conflict as a whole.

Now for Syria this is a fairly important moment, particularly if we consider the hostile relations at present between Syria and Iraq and between Syria and Jordan. This is important. Besides, lately everybody has seen that Damascus has turned into a kind of center of extremely lively political life. In the days during the past week alone, talks were held there between the Syrian president on the one side and Walid Junblatt, tbe Druze leader on the other, with Nibin Birri, the Lebanese Shi'ite leader; the Saudi Arabian foreign minister was there; and Saudi Arabian Crown Prince 'Abdallah was there recently.

Now as a result of these fairly complicated and delicate talks a certain plan for the solution of the Lebanese puzzle is now taking shape the major points of which -- if we believe the press, for it has not been published officially -- look something like this: First of all, obligatory official annulment of the 17 May 1983 agreement. Further, unconditional withdrawal of Israeli troops. As far as the Syrian troops are concerned, this question must be considered entirely separate, considered separately by the Arab countries at the request of the Lebanese Government -- naturally a new government is meant -- and then formation of a government whcih would sufficiently and fully reflect the real correlation of political forces in Lebanon; and finally implementation of a broad spectum of social reforms in Lebanon reforms in Lebanon which would also satisfy the Muslim part of this country.

This is roughly the kind of plan that has now been approached.

Of course, all of us comrades understand that the knot has been tied very tightly and it is very difficult now after the long series of contradictions, confrontation, and civil war to turn to talks between various communities. But generally, there is essentially no other way out. There is no other way out.

[Brutents] I want to support Aleksandr Yevgenyevich in what he said about the role of Syria. I would only like to add that of course one may think that the Americans did not fully assess the role of Syria. But I think that something else counted more strongly. This was confidence that they will manage to force Syria to accept their plan for settlement in Lebanon.

Generally they spared no efforts for this. Just look at the number of their emissaries that visited there. And we and our listeners know this quite well. Both the stick and all kinds of enticements were used.

[Bovin] And the carrot, too.

[Brutents] But they underestimated something else to a much greater extent -- Syria's steadfastness, the strength of its policy, or even simply the nerves of its leaders. Syria did not flinch, Syria did not retreat, although there were days when poorly concealed and even unconcealed threats against Syria could be heard in the addresses of U.S. state figures, including Secretary of State Shultz and even the President himself.

[Bovin] They simply threatened war; they threatened it with war.

[Zordin] Events attest to the fact that the U.S. plan in Lebanon, including direct military interference, has failed. As a matter of fact it is interesting that in recent days rumors are spreading in Washington that one of the authors of this plan, Secretary of State Shultz, will resign, that he will be forced to resign. Now whether it will be soon or whether it will be after the elections, it is hard to say if it will actually happen, but the very fact that such rumors are spreading around Washington is recognition of the failure of Washington's plan.

A very important indication of the forced changes in its plans to which Washington resorted was Reagan's order, of which our television viewers are aware, the order for redeployment of U.S. Marines from the territory of Lebanon to ships of the U.S. squadron off the coast of Lebanon. This event is drawing many commentaries in the world's press and I would like you, Karen Nersesovich, to express your opinion on this.

[Brutents] Well, the fact that this is serious evidence of the failure of U.S. policy you have already mentioned and I will not talk about it. But if one takes the action itself, well, first of all it solves a most simple but nevertheless a most urgent task: to get out. Secondly this version permits it to be done in a sort of face-saving way. And thirdly I think that this leaves the instrument of military pressure within easy reach and the possibility of using it if circumstances become more favorable.

The main thing, however, from the point of view of the policy pursued to date, is it does not change its essence, and I would say it does not change its philosophy. This is a desire to nevertheless. I repeat, keep the club in reserve and to camouflage defeat.

[Zorin] In other words secure the Marines from a direct threat on the one hand and on the other to remain.

[Brutents] To remain and thirdly, I think to barricade themselves against too much strong criticism in the United States.

[Zorin] Yes. This circumstance is of very great significance, because all that is now happening in U.S. politics, without fail, should be correlated with the election campaign, which has entered an active phase.

Everything the White House does, it does with the November elections in mind, and I think that the withdrawal of U.S. Marines from immediate danger to the protection of the armored decks of their ships is also related to the election campaign.

I think a certain Tehran syndrome, as it is called in Washington, is pressuring Reagan's advisers and aides. Everyone there remembers that, during the previous election campaign, the fact of the seizure of U.S. hostages, U.S. diplomats in Tehran, played almost the most important role in ending Carter's political career.

The fact that Americans had to undergo such national humiliation put an end to his career, and played a very large role in the elections.

Now, during a new election campaign, the apprehension that something may happen to the U.S. landing force, the U.S. Marines, and that what may happen will affect the outcome of the presidential elections, has apparently played a substantial role in Reagan's decision to immediately transfer the Marines from Lebanese territory to the decks, to the ships, of the naval squadron located in this region.

Indeed Lebanon, which we are discussing today in such detail, is a sore point in the Middle East situation, but I think that the Lebanese knot is only a part of the Middle East problem, and its pivot, if one may call it that, is the Palestinian problem. Precisely this problem is the stumbling block which Washington and its allies are constantly tripping over.

Aleksandr Yevgenyevich, I would like you, albeit briefly, to dwell on this side of the question.

[Bovin] The Palestinian problem in itself, and its existence, are clear enough. This is a question of Palestinian self-determination and their right to have their own national home, their own state.

However, currently another thing is rivetting attention in this regard -- the complications that have arisen within the PLO, and which naturally interest our television viewers.

One must say that here, just as in practically any question, there is a certain protracted, and often concealed, prehistory. The fact is, the PLO itself is essentially a conglomerate of various groups and organizations; moreover, each one of them is sufficiently autonomous and each has its own armed forces.

Moreover, these groups and organizations adhere to various political views, including views on the Middle East situation, and the very spectrum and range of these views, to a certain extent, repeats the discordance occurring in the Arab world itself. If -- it is perhaps a little sketchy -- but if one nevertheless takes the most extreme viewpoints, then they appear something like this: At one pole, there is principled rejection of Israel as a state in this region; hence, war until final victory. This is one extreme pole. The other is generally the striving for certain indefinite, and partial, compromises of different kinds, let's say of the Camp David kind.

However, this discord has always existed, but during certain periods they have managed to be smoothed over and certain common formulations agreed on; but, in my opinion, the defeat of the Palestinians in Beirut created a certain psychological atmosphere in which these differences came to the fore.

Well, the question always arises: Who is to blame? And this brings up a multitude of related things. It is difficult, perhaps I do not have enough documentation and material, but when I try to reconstruct the train of thought that led to the subsequent events, course of events, then I form the picture that, as far as one can judge, perhaps a certain somewhat pessimistic mood appeared among a section of the Palestinians -- in particular among 'Arafat's associates -- that one could hardly talk about an independent state in the foreseeable future, that this was far off, and this aim was practically impossible to attain. Therefore, certain interim solutions should be sought.

And so the following arises: Insofar as the Americans are telling the Israelis that, after all, they must leave the West Bank, then should we not try to somehow convert to this American plan, force the Americans to pressure Israel to return the West Bank to Jordan, and then see what happens; then it will be easier. Perhaps I am mistaken here, but I consider this was approximately the train of thought which led 'Arafat to Amman for talks with Husayn, and then, after Tripoli, led him to Cairo for talks with Mubarak.

Comrades, of course it is first and foremost a matter for the Palestinians to consider Palestinian affairs, but I think that there is one very vulnerable flaw in this train of thought, that is a belief in the fact that the Americans will be able to persuade Israel to leave the West Bank. I simply cannot imagine such a scenario.

[Brutents] I would also add that one may doubt that they will seriously begin doing this...

[Bovin interrupts] Yes, yes. Of course, of course. Well, look...

[Brutents] ...that they will truly begin to persuade them.

[Bovin interrupts] Of course, of course. Well, what is Israel doing, for instance? Now, at the beginning of this year, Israel had 219 settlements in the occupied territories; of them, 155 were on the West Bank and 30 in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the decision has been made for another 79 settlements in the upcoming 2 years. In other words, Israel is, in fact, continuing intensive colonialization of these regions, and it is difficult to imagine that it will leave them voluntarily or under pressure from the Americans.

The only real alternative is still, from my point of view -- although it possibly affects long-term prospects -- strengthening the unity of the Arab world, accordingly strengthening pressure on Israel, thus eliminating these contradictions in the PLO, and putting right its contacts with all Arab states, particularly with those who resolutely oppose Israeli policy. In principle, I think that only here can one see some kind of prospect, though of course it is difficult, it is not close, and it will require perhaps more protracted efforts, tension, and so on.

The difficulty is connected precisely with the fact that after the tragic events in Lebanon, the Palestinians apparently must somehow reassess the situation, their new position, evaluate all these things, somehow restore relations with Syria, which are now noticeably disturbed, adapt themselves to new conditions, and continue the struggle for their national rights.

[Brutents] The fact is that, after all, the Palestinian problem -- literally a few words on this subject -- may be understood completely differently, in different ways. The Palestinian problem can be declared -- as it was in the past -- a refugee problem. [Zorin and Bovin voice agreement]

The Israeli leadership and their U.S. confederates, so to speak, agree with such an interpretation of the Palestinian problem.

The Palestinian problem may be understood as a problem of autonomy, with the intention of gradually dispersing the Palestinians, partly among this or that Arab state, and partly among the Arab minority in Israel.

Finally, the Palestinian problem may be understood in its practical essence, the way it is understood by the Palestinians themselves, and all their friends and allies, as the inalienable right of a 4-million-strong people to realize their national self-determination, including the creation of an independent state.

Aleksandr Yevgenyevich is absolutely correct; of course this problem is complex and difficult. One cannot say that its solution is already dawning, but history has known many difficult battles for national liberation and the creation of a national state, which lasted long, but ended in success.

[Zorin] I would like to turn our attention to yet another aspect of the Middle East problem. Recently, the events on the Iran-Iraq front have again become acutely exacerbated. Karen Nersesovich, I would like to put to you the question: How do these events influence the general Middle East situation?

[Brutents] You know, the impression is created at times that this war has become too familiar, that it is half-forgotten. Either because it has dragged on a long time, for too long, nearly 1,300 days. Nevertheless, it is a major and bloody war.

By many criteria, it is the largest war of the classic type since the time of the battles of 1939-45. Hundreds of thousands of people, many hundreds of tanks, artillery pieces, and aircraft, are taking part. A gigantic, bloody tribute has already been exacted. According to estimates, the number of killed has exceeded 200,000 people, and the number of wounded...

[Bovin interrupts] I have read of a figure of 500,000. That is according to official data, 125 and 50 [thousand], but the unofficial figure is probably greater.

[Brutente] It is difficult to say, all the same I think...

[Bovin interrupts] Of course, it is a bloody war.

[Brutents] ...that both figures are sufficiently large. If one adds another 600,000 wounded, then it becomes clear.

Another outbreak of military action is occurring right now. Iranian forces assumed the offensive on the night of 15 February in the central sector, and on the night of 21 February in the eastern sector of the front, with offensives, operations called Val Fajr V and VI, or Dawn V and VI, that is these are the fifth and sixth offensives of this kind.

The offensive, to all appearances, has foundered. Now, fierce and bloody battles are underway, whose scale can be judged by the report of the British newspaper THE DAILY TELEGRAPH. Even if its accuracy is relative, it wrote that both sides had concentrated about up to half a million people at the front line.

Now the war has already resulted in great calamities. I have spoken about the killed and wounded. The economic losses are reckoned in billions of dollars. Correspondents reported that, during the last campaign in Iran to recruit so-called volunteers for the Iranian Army, people from the ages of 13 to 65 were called up, or rather fished out.

But this too is not everything. Currently, the war has entered a phase in which both sides are already resorting to air, missile, and artillery strikes against the peaceful population to put pressure on the enemy.

[Bovin] Against cities.

[Brutentes] Purposely. The other day, Velayati, foreign minister of Iran, declared that, as a result of missile fire and air strikes, nearly 5,000 peaceful citizens had been killed in Iranian cities, more than 20,000 wounded, and hundreds of thousands have been forced to leave their homes and be evacuated.

It should be added that Iran is acting in absolutely the same way, in the same direction.

I think these details could be continued, but it is hardly worth it; the picture is clear. A lot has been said, and written, about this war being senseless, and, in fact, it can solve absolutely none of the existing problems. At the same time, there is nothing in the national interests of Iran and Iraq that could not be settled at the conference table by peaceful means, and on mutually acceptable basis, while they are allowing the guns to speak.

I would add to the fact that this is a senseless war, it is also a dangerous and harmful one. Dangerous, because it is being played out at a very sensitive, or as it is popularly known today, a neuraligic point. Petroleum routes of world significance pass through here, and the imperialist powers, particularly the United States, are already using this to justify their military presence in this zone, in the Persian Gulf region, and now even for planned military intervention.

Further, this war has somehow cut Iran and Iraq -- and these are very important states in the region -- from the development of events in this region, from opposition to U.S.-Zionist plans. They have seized one another in such a grip that they are unable to grasp other events or affairs.

Another thing, this war has itself promoted the alienation of Arab states, because the Arab governments have adopted different positions in relations to the warring sides. Syria and Libya are cooperating with Iran, while Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, the Gulf States, and others support Iraq.

And finally, I think that the fact that this war of which hardly anybody in the world approves -- at least not openly -- has been going on so long, it is also influenced by the abnormal nature of the contemporary international situation. If an atmosphere of constructive cooperation, mutual trust, and durable, peaceful coexistence reigned in the international arena, then I think that world public opinion against continuation of this unnatural conflict would be heard more loudly, while the potential to end it would be far greater.

[Zorin] Now, insofar as we have dealt with this range of problems, I would like to ask you, Aleksandr Yevgenyevich, to dwell on the situation in Iran, particularly in connection with the fact that the fifth anniversary of the Iranian revolution has just been observed.

[Bovin] Yes, this is not the simplest of questions that could be asked today. However, when one assesses these years, then I would put it this way: These 5 years were the rise and fall of the Iranian revolution.

In fact, this was really a popular, truly one of the genuinely popular revolutions of the 20th century. But it turned out that it lacked a political force of the contemporary type, which could have headed this revolution, and given it some kind of ideological slogans, without which generally revolutions do not occur. The revolution was headed, perhaps for the first time in history, by the clergy, the Shi'ite clergy, and the first 3 years of the new Iran were perhaps a struggle, whoe main emphasis was for a Muslim theocratic state, or for a secular state with some Muslim nuances. The struggle revolved around this main question, a struggle in which the clergy, as a matter of fact, were not divided on the same positions.

The main stages of this struggle, in which this theocratic position eventually triumphed, were November 1979 and the departure of the Bazargan government, then the summer of 1981 and the departure of Bani-Sadr and the defeat of his supporters, and finally September 1982 and the plot that resulted in the execution of Gotbzadeh -- as a matter of fact it is now considered that, in 5 years, 23 plots were uncovered there.

Now, as a result of all these perturbations, Khomeyni, and those around him, managed to liquidate all organized political and opposition forces. Now the nonpolitical result, if you will, but the social one consists of the fact that, in practice, those progressive reforms -- socioeconomic and social and the democratization of society -- which were under discussion during the initial stages of the revolution, all of them generally I would say, quietly slipped into the sand. Gradually a theocratic, and fairly harsh, regime took shape, whose ideology is attempting to return Iran to the period of early Islam some several centuries back.

Now, of course, all of us are interested in the question: That, strictly speaking why, during these 5 years did this revolution manage to circumscribe such a highly unusual curve? It seems to me that one of the main reasons is of course the enormous prestige of the Imam Komeyni, a prestige achieved through many years of uncompromising struggle against the shah, and against U.S. dominance.

Secondly, and I think this is another very important point, is the deep religious fervor of the masses, which permitted the Shi'ite clergy to manipulate social consciousness if you will, to direct the people's energy into the course in which they wanted to channel it. Besides, the Iran-Iraq war helped to strengthen the current regime in particular, because it elevated this patriotic wave, which they managed to combine with religious fanaticism, and all of this went to strengthen the existing regime.

I would highlight another, not unimportant, fact: The disunity and diversity of all kinds of opposition groups, let us say, of a progressive bent. And finally, an important factor was played by the very harshness of the regime that resorted to prison, torture, executions, and terror against all those who opposed the powers that be. The last example was the destruction of the Tudeh party.

And perhaps another thing should be noted, that one of the characteristic features of the current regime in Iran is its extremely furious, I would say, anticommunism and anti-Sovietism. Literally every day, a whole bucket of dirt is poured over the communists and the Soviet Union.

If we talk about internal affairs, in Iran in general, about what is occurring in Iran, and about the nature of the regime, well of course in the long run this is the affair of the Iranians themselves. We can talk about it, but it is their internal affair. As far as the Soviet Union is concerned, Iran is our neighbor. Of course, we are interested in good and stable relations with this country. But generally, here there must be undoubted reciprocity, and you understand this comrades. And bearing in mind, unfortunately, precisely those Tehran words and deeds about which I have spoken, so far one cannot talk of reciprocity here, and we can only express regret over this. Anyway, this is not in the interests of the Iranian people themselves.

[Brutents] I think that a certain role in the stability of the current regime in Iran is played by its proclaimed anti-Americanism. It...

[Bovin interrupts] Yes, it linked it with Khamene'i's prestige, his really uncompromising position.

[Brutents] Yes, it corresponds with the sentiments of the masses and is the target that, along with the feudal monarchy, the Iranian revolution aimed at. Preservation of this slogan, maintenance of anti-American positions, at least public ones, of course commands the respect of fairly broad levels of the Iranian public.

[Bovin] Without a doubt.

[Zorin] I would like to conclude our discussion with an attempt to assess the influence of the events which we have discussed today on the general situation that has taken shape in this region [the Middle East]. How would you assess them, Karen Nersesovich?

[Brutents] I think events in Lebanon will have major repercussions in the Arab world in particular, and not only there. First, I think they have demonstrated two fundamental weaknesses, two flaws in Washington's Arab -- or, more accurately, anti-Arab -- policy.

First, the smug belief -- and we have already noted this -- is that this most complicated problem can be solved with the aid of concentrated force. It turned out that this was not the case, that like other complicated problems it can not be solved by using a club. The U.S. squadron is still in sight of Beirut; the Marines were stationed on shore, yet they could not change the course of events.

Second -- this is essentially another U.S. policy weakness which has been emphasized by events in Lebanon -- is the disregard for the Arabs' national interests: Refusal to recognize and respect in practice their right to live according to their own statutes, the way they would like to; to not take into consideration their honor and dignity; and possibly even more important, to underestimate their potential to defend their national interests.

So I think that these events will obviously affect the U.S. position and prestige. I think it will be possible to talk with good reason about the strengthening of Syria's position and its role, of the Lebanese National Patriotic Forces, the anti-imperialist Palestinians: In a word, all states, political parties, and trends that come out for strongly rebuffing imperialist plans.

On the other hand, I think we can speak of a weakening of the positions of those forces which, either because they have become fainthearted or because they have incorrectly assessed the situation, have come to believe in U.S. omnipotence, and have accepted the formula once invented by As-Sadat that in the Middle East issue, 90 percent of the aces presumably are in U.S. hands.

I think events in Lebanon also provide food for thought to those forces in the Arab world -- I have in mind a number of conservative regimes -- that are connected with the Americans but which often experience doubt and indecision in relation to their policy, and which, in a number of cases when this policy puts them in too awkward a situation, as is happening with Lebanon, strive to distance themselves from them.

I think, finally that events in Lebanon will leave their mark on U.S. attempts to use the differences in the Palestine resistance movement, about which we have spoken here, in order to lead them away from their principled positions.

I am even tempted to note a certain relationship between the events in Lebanon and the position adopted by Egyptian President Mubarak during his recent visit to Washington. U.S. press reports lead us to believe that it was not simple.

[Bovin] On the one hand, he said that the withdrawal of U.S. Marines would be a catastrophe.

[Brutents] That is what I wanted to say; but more accurately, according to reports, it looked like this. The papers reported that during his conversation with President Reagan, Mubarak responded quite disapprovingly of the decision to transfer the Marines to ships and called this a catastrophe. At the same time, during a meeting with correspondents, he called on Israel to immediately withdraw its troops from Lebanon and for the United States to recognize the PLO. This promptly evoked the displeasure of the Israeli Government as REUTER reported from Jerusalem.

Now another circumstance: I think that these events will lead to a growth of the already-strong anti-Americanisn in the Arab world. Why? The Arab world is complex, and it is an elementary truth that it is divided and that various viewpoints, conflicts, and even hostility exist there. There is no doubt that there are regimes and figures in the Arab world today that are by no means delighted over the U.S. fiasco in Beirut.

But I am deeply convinced that the overwhelming majority of Arabs are hostile about Americans pouring lead at the Arabs on Arab soil thousands of miles from U.S. shores.

With complete justification they regard this as a repercussion of past colonial expeditions and another illustration of the arrogant and dominating attitude towards them. I believe that all of this taken together permits one to say that the events in Lebanon will apparently complicate the cause of Middle East settlement in the U.S.-Israeli manner.

Unfortunately, we have not yet gotten any closer to a genuine and just Middle East settlement. This is not only because this is a most complicated problem, which during the long years of conflict has also acquired various kinds of psychological and even irrational obstacles, but also because what is needed is a change in or defeat of the current U.S. and Israeli policy, which is an obstacle to this kind of settlement.

[Zorin] Well, our time on the air has run out. It remains for me to express the hope that we will again discuss aspects of this diversely complicated problem often. Thank you, colleagues, for taking part in our discussion, and thanks to our viewers for their attention. And so, until we meet again here in Studio 9, thank you.

DEFENSE MINISTER USTINOV TO VISIT INDIA 5 MARCH

BK251334 Hong Kong AFP in English 1326 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 25 (AFP) -- Soviet Defence Minister Marshal Dmitriy Ustinov will pay a six-day official visit to India beginning March 5, an official announcement said here today.

Mr Ustinov was originally to undertake an Indian tour on February 6 but had to postpone it abruptly in view of the ill health of Soviet President Yuriy Andropov, who died three days later.

He will meet with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Defence Minister Ramaswamy Venkataraman and other Indian Government leaders to discuss the situation in the region and other parts of the world as well as the two countries' bilateral ties. The Soviet defence minister is also slated to tour various Indian defence establishments during the visit.

U.S. PLANS 'OPEN' AID TO AFGHAN 'CUTTHROATS'

LD261759 Moscow TASS in English 1640 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Kabul, February 26, BAKHTAR -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is examining a resolution on rendering aid to "Afghan freedom fighters", as the Afghan counterrevolutionary rabble are called in the USA. If the resolution is approved by both chambers of the U.S. Congress, THE WASHINGTON POST noted recently, the Reagan administration will have the right to render open assistance to Afghan cutthroats.

Washington has been organizing, financing and guiding the undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for the sixth year running. The White House has never concealed that it is engaged in "secret operations" against the Afghan republic for which the CIA spends annually 100 (100) million dollars. The bulk of these funds goes for purchasing weapons for counter-revolutionary gangs and for training terrorists at special camps in Pakistan. However, U.S. efforts aimed at undermining the gains of the April Revolution have failed. The discussion of the question on legalizing the aid to counter-revolutionary detachments shows that Washington is ready to step up subversive activities against Afghanistan. The open support of Afghan cutthroats may become a new stage of the US undeclared war against the Afghan people. The adoption of the resolution will give freedom to the Reagan administration which has already turned its close cooperation with counterrevolutionaries in Asia, Africa and Latin America into a principal element of its foreign policy.

PAKISTAN POLICE CHIEF HITS 'BASMACHI' ARMS SALES

LD241238 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 23 Feb 84

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Viktor Levin]

[Text] Islamabad: The chief of police in Sind Province, UPI reports, has said that Afghan refugees -- this is what the basmachi are called -- are selling weapons to local bandits and thereby assisting the increase in crime. This statement by the police chief is like a cry of desperation. He openly complained of the fact that Afghan counterrevolutionaries show base ingratitude: They are helped and then they create extra problems for Pakistan. But in fact this policeman should not have addressed himself to the Afghan basmachi but to their command.

After all, it is on orders from the United States that the counterrevolutionary rabble are energetically equipped with weapons. There is nothing surprising about the fact that the basmachi sell arms to Pakistani bandits, for it is not said without reason that it takes one to know one. The basmachi are as much bandits and plunderers as their Pakistani colleagues. And the facts given by the Sind police chief, incidentally, only confirm this yet again.

PAKISTAN'S REPRESSION OF STUDENTS CRITICIZED

LD261507 Moscow TASS in Engish 1333 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] New York February 26 TASS -- Discontent of the broad popular masses with the military regime's anti-democratic policy is growing in Pakistan. According to reports from Islamabad, a mass demonstration of students was held in Lahore, one of the biggest Pakistani cities. Its participants declared firm protest against the ban on activities of students' union, which was recently introduced by the military authorities, and demanded that civil rights and liberties be immediately granted to the population of the country. As is reported by the UPI, reinforced police units were summoned to disperse the demonstrators. 18 students were arrested.

In the recent time the authorities have been resorting to increasingly tougher repressions with regard to the younger generation of the country. Activities of the student self-government bodies are prohibited in all four Pakistani provinces. The security forces actually occupied the campus of the Karachi University. A ban on subcription to publications, which are not under full control of the authorities was introduced in all educational establishments of Pakistan a few days ago. They are allowed to receive only five "absolutely reliable" newspapers.

The cause of such close "attention" of the military dictatorship to students is their growing participation in the "civil disobedience" campaign which swept the whole country at the call of the big opposition alliance -- the Movement for Restoration of Democracy. The youth of Pakistan demand immediate lifting of martial law, the early transfer of power to a civilian government, restoration of the action of the constitution of 1973 and the holding of general parliamentary elections.

BRIEFS

MOSSOVET DELEGATION IN INDIA -- The visit to India has ended of a delegation from the Executive Committee of Mossovet, led by Comrade Promyslov, chairman of the Executive Committee. The delegation was received by India's President Zail Singh and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who stressed the great importance of exchanging contacts between the capitals of both countries in order to further strengthen Indian-Soviet friendship and mutually advantageous cooperation. The delegation visited Delhi and Bombay, another of India's largest cities, where it became acquainted with housing, industrial, and social amenities' construction, and exchanged experience in managing the city's economy in the field of planning, architecture, and public transport. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1200 GMT 24 Feb 84 LD]

USSR, HUNGARY SIGN NATURAL GAS DELIVERY AGREEMENT

LD241553 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Soviet-Hungarian trade and economic ties are strengthening and developing every year. In 1983, the volume of trade turnover exceeded 8 billion rubles. Our Budapest correspondent, Yuriy Royov, tells of a new, mutually beneficial agreement between the USSR and Hungary:

The Hungarian newspapers are giving prominence today to reports on the signing in Budapest of an important Hungarian-Soviet agreement defining deliveries of natural gas from the USSR to Hungary for 1984. As a result of these supplies, the Hungarian People's Republic national economy is satisfying around 95 percent of all its import needs for natural gas. In exchange, products of the machine-building and instrument-building industry, agriculture and the food and light industries are exported from Hungary to the Soviet Union.

DEMICHEV ATTENDS SIGNING OF USSR-GDR PROTOCOL

PM241247 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Protocol Signed"]

[Text] A protocol on organizing and holding a GDR cultural festival in the Soviet Union was signed in Moscow 22 February. This friendship festival, devoted to the 35th anniversary of the GDR's formation, will take place in all the union republics in the middle of October.

Soviet people will familiarize themselves with the art of the collectives of the Dresden Opera, the Berlin Gorkiy Drama Theater, and the Leipzig Radio symphony orchestra and of leading soloists. An exhibition of masterpieces of the Dresden Gallery will be held within the framework of the festival.

Present at the signing of the protocol were P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture; H.-J. Hoffmann, member of the SED Central Committee and GDR minister of culture; and E. Winkelmann, GDR ambassador to the USSR.

POLISH OFFICIAL ON WESTERN 'SUBVERSIVE' ACTS

PM241525 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Showing Vigilance: An Article in the TRYBUNA LUDU Newspaper"]

[Text] Warsaw, 22 Feb -- The subversive activities of the internal and external enemies of Poland, who are attempting to reverse the process of socialist transformations in the country, are closely connected, W. Ciaston, Polish under secretary of state in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, writes in TRYBUNA LUDU today. The activity of the anti-socialist opposition and the underground is being coordinated by NATO countries' special services. Polish security organs are thwarting the Western special services' criminal schemes and are exposing the subversive plans of socialist Poland's internal enemies. Recently a number of professional agents belonging to imperialist intelligence services have been neutralized and attempts to recruit Polish citizens nipped in the bud.

This hostile conspiratorial activity against Poland, the deputy minister observed, is being carried out by the most varied methods characteristic of NATO special services. This is shown by numerous facts confirming the connection between the illegal anti-communist groupings Social Self-Defense Committee-Workers Defense Committee and the "Confederation for Independent Poland" and espionage departments in the West, although these subversive groupings' emissaries have made assiduous efforts to conceal their ties with the representatives of imperialist centers of political and ideological sabotage.

Without the West's generous help and support, W. Ciaston stated, the antisocialist opposition in Poland could not exist. We appreciate that the front in the struggle for socialism runs not only through the country but beyond its borders. The public, which is displaying vigilance and class feeling, is providing extensive and effective assistance to the security organs in exposing espionage and subversive activity.

POLISH BOOK ON WESTERN INTERFERENCE REVIEWED

PM171532 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Policy of Blackmail and Threats"]

[Text] Warsaw, 16 Feb -- The United States is continuing to step up the unprecedented scale of its ideological subversion against Poland and is resorting to a policy of blackmail and threats in an attempt to undermine the process of normalization in Poland.

This is stressed in the book by the Polish journalist J. Kraszewski "In the Shadow of Large-Scale Manupilations" ("V Teni Bolshikh Manupilyatsiy") published by Warsaw's Ksiazka i Wiedza Publishing House.

The interference in Poland's internal affairs by the United States and certain of its NATO allies, the book says, is part and parcel of the psychological war being waged by imperialism against the socialist community countries.

Poland has long been one of the main targets for the subversive activities of the West's anticommunist centers, including the NATO special services, which are striving at all costs to undermine the socialist system in Poland, tear it away from the socialist community, and violate the political realities which have arisen in Europe since the war. To these ends the Western subversion centers generously gave money to antisocialist elements in Poland, including organizations such as KSS-KOR and the "Confederation for Independent Poland."

As the book notes, the inflammatory campaign by Western radio stations against Poland has still not died down. Most actively in evidence here are Munich's Radio Free Europe, which works for the CIA, VOA, and also Polish political emigre centers in West Europe.

The organizers of the anti-Polish campaign have scant affection for the process of normalization in Poland. The more signs that appear of an improvement in the country's situation, the more flagrant and sophisticated the West's psychological warfare against Poland becomes. The forces of international reaction do not even hide their aggressive intentions, as they did a few years ago, but openly attempt to dictate their conditions to sovereign Poland.

The West's interference in Poland's internal affairs, the book points out, has reached a scale unprecedented in the practice of international relations.

IZVESTIYA EDITOR SCORES 'HOSTILE' SWEDISH PRESS

PM241040 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 14 Feb 84 p 3

[IZVESTIYA deputy chief editor Nikolay Yefimov "Focus" article: "More Hostile Than The Press in NATO Countries"]

[Text] During my short visit to Sweden recently I had the opportunity to talk with a number of Swedish colleagues and our conversations naturally touched on our respective views of the role of journalism and the ways of treating and commenting on news material.

I encountered among my Swedish colleagues the view that their job is to inform their audience about events, no matter how pleasant or unpleasant these might be for their readers. However, in their view Soviet journalists had a "directive " to follow -- to "bring the peoples closer to each other." In other words, Swedish journalists provide information about everything, while Soviet journalists only select that which complies with the "directive."

This is an oversimplified view of the Soviet press. When Soviet newspapers send correspondents to other countries they naturally expect to receive from them information about the most divergent events: The Palme commission's latest proposals, the theft of paintings in Budapest and the hunt for the missing pictures, the development of the high technology industries in Japan and so on. Here I have mentioned some of the items printed in IZVESTIYA recently.

No, bringing the peoples closer to each other is not a "directive." It is, if you like the whole of our philosophy. And we see nothing dubious or restrictive for the journalist in this.

Of course, you do not need to share our philosophy. You can reject it. But reduce it to a "directive?" That is giving a distorted picture, a caricature. Perhaps it is easiest for some people to portray us as completely different from them. But it is not us they are protraying. Not at all.

The endeavors of Swedish journalists or provide information about events, no matter what sort of events they might be, can only be welcomed. But how are things really? In reality only that which breeds hostility toward everything Soviet, which says nothing about Soviet peace initiatives and so on is selected. The press of neutral Sweden is sometimes more hostile toward us than the press in the NATO nations.

I am spontaneously reminded of what August Strindberg wrote in "Svartor Fanor" [Black Flags] about a newspaper where everything was upside down, distorted, poisoned, not so much by what appeared in it as by what did not appear in it. This is how domestic issues are reported, Strindberg wrote.

Have these principles now been transferred to the foreign news pages? Fifteen well-known Swedish artists come to the Soviet Union. In Moscow and Vologda masses of people go to see their exhibition. Their works are reviewed in the Soviet press. And what do the Swedish correspondents in Moscow do? Do they provide information about this event? No, they do not remark on it, they do not consider it to be worthy of attention. And when something which they do consider to be worthy of attention does turn up, they try to remark on it in such a way that Sweden's neighbor appears in the most repugnant light.

Recently a report that a dam on a tributary of the Dniestr had collapsed and that part of this river had been polluted appeared in the Swedish press as sensational news. Had this really happened?

Yes. But Swedish mass media did not only provide information, they also "presented revelations" time after time about the Soviet authorities, which were said to have attempted to hide this event from the population.

This "concealment" was actually manifested in the fact that as long as 3 months ago IZVESTIYA gave its readers detailed information about what had happened on the Dniestr. Why did the Swedish mass media pass over such a fact, which can hardly be considered unimportant, in silence?

Of course, journalists can be mistaken, have "misses" and overlook some event or other. There are no guarantees against such things happening. But when the mistakes, the misses are turned into a system, the situation becomes the reverse -- it is the material which gives a correct picture of life in the Soviet Union that then constitutes the "misses."

Of course you can also discuss whether it is a good or bad thing if journalists strive to bring peoples closer to each other, to increase the understanding between them.

But to continually blacken a neighbor? Give a distorted picture of it? To stir up mistrust of it using artificial means? And to carry this so far that people soon begin to find "foreign divers" in their own bath tubs?

When all is said and done this shows lack of respect for one's readers. One can of course course attempt to guess who is served by this and for what reason. But I believe that it is not in the interests either of Swedes or of Soviet citizens.

SPANISH DEFENSE DOCUMENT ON NATO ENTRY CRITICIZED

LD252306 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2030 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] The foreign press widely comments upon the document of the Spanish Defense Ministry published in Madrid, which analyzes Spain's relationship with the NATO bloc. Formally, that document is regarded as semi-official, Eduard Kovalev, a journalist writing on international affairs, points out. Its theses, however, are eloquent enough. They are different from the anti-NATO position proclaimed by the Spanish Socialists in the course of the pre-electoral struggle in October 1982. At that time, together with the promise of other positive changes, such a proclamation brought them victory and the majority of seats in parliament.

The authors of the present document unambiguously take a position in favor of maintaining Spain's membership in NATO. As to the referendum promised to the people regarding that issue, the authors of the report allege that the situation is not favorable in Europe and in the world at large for carrying it out. Under that pretext they want to justify the rejection of the idea of a referendum. Yet, that idea was until now the official position of the Spanish Government, in accordance with both the wishes of the Spanish people and the pre-electoral promise of the Socialist Workers Party. It should be recalled that on coming into power, the socialist government condemned the actions of the former centrist cabinet which involved the country in NATO against the will of the majority of Spaniards. At the time, the process of integration of the country in the military structure of the bloc was frozen and it was announced that a referendum would be carried out before 1986 in order to determine the true position of the Spanish people on that issue.

Now, Western observers affirm a pro-Atlantic mood is growing in the higher spheres of the Spanish Government. It is even stated that holding a referendum would serve the interests of Moscow. Things have gone so far that the socialist party's own commitments assumed before the people, which secured for that party the mandate to govern the country, are sacrificed to NATO's bloc discipline.

It is easy to join NATO, but to leave it is much more difficult, a personality of the Spanish Government recently said. It is possibly so. However, it appears that the situation now created is reflected the most correctly by an analysis according to which the pressure by the United States and of the NATO leadership upon Spain has become so strong, that it limits the freedom of movement of the sovereign Spanish state.

In exchange for military integration in NATO and abandonment of the referendum, the Spaniards are promised American military aid and guaranteed admission to the European Common Market.

Thus, Spain is increasingly entagled in the web of military and political commitments. The majority of the Spanish people however actively oppose the country's membership in NATO and more so entry into the military organisation of the bloc, which would become and additional destabilizing factor in the situation in Europe which is tense enough because of the deployment in the West of the contingent of new American nuclear rockets.

One would like in this connection to ask a fundamental question: How can one conbine the pre-election pledge to give the Spanish people the possibility to decide themselves the question of remaining in NATO and the present maneuvers of the supporters of a pro-Atlantic policy?

USSR, SPAIN SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Economic Cooperation Agreement

LD241536 Moscow TASS in English 1517 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Madrid Feburary 24 TASS -- An agreement between the governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Repbulics and Spain on developing economic and industrial cooperation was signed here today.

The ten-year agreement provides, in particular, for cooperation in building and modernizing industrial projects, the joint production of some kinds of machines and equipment, and exchanges of experience and technical information. A mixed Soviet-Spanish intergovernmental commission will be set up under the agreement to work out concrete programs and identify new areas of cooperation.

The agreement was signed by Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran and Yu.V. Dubinin, Soviet ambassador to Spain.

Long-term Television Pact

LD241728 Moscow TASS in English 1713 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS -- A long-term agreement on cooperation in the sphere of television and broadcasting between the Soviet Union and Spain was signed here today.

The agreement provides for preparing special programs devoted to important events in the life of the two countries, the exchange of films, the rendering of assistance to film-making groups and correspondents in preparing reports on various aspects of the life of the Soviet Union and Spain.

Documents of Registration

LD270527 Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Madrid February 24 TASS -- A Soviet-Spanish intergovernmental agreement on the mutual recognition of the documents of registration was signed here today.

USSR, AUSTRIA MARK DIPLOMATIC TIES ANNIVERSARY

Shows 'Peaceful Coexistence'

LD241741 Moscow TASS in English 1035 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS -- TASS news analyst Andrey Alov writes:

Sixty years ago, in February 1924, the Soviet Union and the Austrian Republic established diplomatic relations. That was a major event in the histories of both countries. From the outset the Soviet state was developing its relations with Austria on the basis of the Leninist principles of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems. The Soviet Union was displaying consistency and firmness in upholding international peace, the security of states and their independence. That objectively met the vital national interests of Austria. The Soviet Union was the world's only great power strongly to denounce in March 1938 Nazi Germany for the forced anschluss of Austria and insistently called for collective measures against the aggressor. The Soviet Union continued consistently to pursue a course of not recognizing the anschluss, a course for the restoration of the independence of Austria.

Symptomatically, it was in Moscow that the foreign ministers of the USSR, the United States and Britain approved in October 1943, at the height of the Second World War, a declaration on Austria, announcing the desire of the participants in that conference to see the free and independent Austria restored.

Having made a decisive contribution to the rout of Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union saved the peoples of Europe, including the Austrian people, from Nazi slavery. The liberation mission of the Soviet Army, which entered Austrian territory, paved the way to the restoration of Austrian statehood. The Soviet Government was the first to recognize the interim government of the Austrian Republic, formed on April 27, 1945, and in October 1945 decided to exchange diplomatic representatives with it.

The Soviet Union proposed as early as July 1946 that a state treaty with Austria be drawn up. However, because of the position of the Western powers it was not before almost ten years later that the Austrian question was fully resolved: On May 15, 1955, a state treaty on the restoration of independent democratic Austria was signed in Vienna's Belvedere Palace. In the same year, on October 26, the parliament of the country approved a constitutional law on the permanent neutrality of the Austrian Republic.

The policy defined by those basic documents had a beneficial effect on the situation of Austria, which solidly took its place in the world community of states. The international prestige of the Austrian Republic grew immeasurably and it began to play an energetic role in the efforts to strengthen peace and mutual trust in international relations.

The state treaty and the status of permanent neutrality became the tested basis on which the fruitful development of Soviet-Austrian relations rests.

The 60-year experience of the development of those relations is forceful proof that only broad cooperation based on genuine equality, non-intervention in each other's affairs and respect for each other's interests guarantees a peaceful future for all the states and nations in the world, both big and small. Relations between the USSR and neutral Austria, being an example of the practical implementation of the police of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems, help to promote trust and mutual understanding and serve the cause of peace and security.

Kirchschlaeger Interview

LD241947 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 24 Feb 84

[From the Vremya newscast; video interview with Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschaleger]

[Text] It is the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Austria. In connection with this date the president of the Austrian Republic, Rudolf Kirchschlaeger, gave an interview to Soviet television.

[Begin Kirchschlaeger video recording in German superimposed translation] The Austrian Republic belongs to the number of those countries who were among the first to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Over the last 60 years our relations have been developing fruitfully. Those years have brought much that is good and useful to both Austria and the Soviet Union.

Trade and economic ties were the main area of development between our countries in the initial stages. Later, when Austria's independence was under threat, the USSR together with a number of other countries, came actively to the defense of our republic's sovereignty.

When in 1938 Austria was swallowed up by Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union was one of not many states who protested decisively in the international arena and called for joint actions to save our country. In 1945 the reestablishment of a free democratic, and independent Austria began, much assisted by the Soviet Union within the framework of the Yalta and Moscow declarations. In the 10 years which followed, the Soviet Union, together with the three allied powers, had its military establishments in Austria. It is in these years that active trade and economic ties between our two countries began to grow.

After the state treaty on the reestablishment of an independent, democratic Austria was signed in 1955, bilateral relations developed on an ascending line, acquiring concrete content in the political, economic, cultural and other spheres. At the moment, mutual trust and the nature of relations between our countries serve as an example and promote peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems, in Europe and in the whole world. [end Kirchschlaeger video recording]

Foreign Minister Lanc on Ties

LD241751 Moscow TASS in English 1250 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Vienna February 24 TASS -- Relations between the Soviet Union and Austria not only develop without any problems and are free of tension, but also assume an increasingly friendly character, emphasized Erwin Lanc, minister of foreign affairs of the Austrian Republic. In a statement issued here on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Soviet-Austrian diplomatic relations, he pointed out the great role of mutual visits at all levels. The anniversary falls due on February 25. Erwin Lanc recalled the visit to Austria by Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, in April 1981 and the visit to the Soviet Union by President Rudolf Kirchschaleger of the Austrian Republic in May 1982.

The minister stressed that the Soviet Union has become one of the main partners of Austria in the field of energy. As a result of that, trade turnover between the two countries grew considerably in 1979-1981, running at over 25,000 million schillings. The trade turnover kept on at the same level over the past two years as well. A three-year agreement on cultural and scientific exchanges between the USSR and Austria was concluded recently, the statement points out. Erwin Lanc stressed that on the occasion of the jubilee the Austrian side once again expresses sincere striving for the relations between the Austrian people and the peoples of Soviet Union to continue to develop successfully on the basis of mutual trust and friendship.

Economic Cooperation Viewed

LD242119 Moscow TASS in English 2041 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 24 TASS -- TASS economic Analyst Vladimir Dushenkin writes: The USSR and Austria are making these days the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations. Today the cooperation between the two countries covers many spheres. It is characterised by mutual respect and confidence and can serve as an example of fruitful relations between countries with different social-economic systems. Trade and economic relations are one of the most important spheres of cooperation. They contribute a great deal to the solution of a number of problems facing the economies of the two countries. These relations are acquiring ever more large-scale and long-term character. The program of the development and deepening of economic, scientific, technical and industrial cooperation between the USSR and Austria, signed early in 1981, covers the period ending in 1990.

From 1970 to 1981, trade turnover between the two countries increased ninefold. According to the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade, in 1983, trade went up by 11 per cent to exceed 1.3 billion roubles. In accordance with the wish expressed by the Austrian side the disbalance observed earlier has been completely overcome. Austrian statistics show that in 1983 Austria's export to the USSR went up by 15 per cent, while in comparison with 1978 it nearly doubled. The volume of deliveries to the USSR exceeds today Austrian exports to the U.S. and Canada taken together. The Soviet Union is the fifth among Austria's major trade partners. Ever more Austria-made consumer goods appear in Soviet shops. New contracts for passenger ships of the "Lux" class were signed recently. The deliveries of various equipment, pipes and chemicals are growing.

The construction on turn-key terms of the scrap-processing metallurgical plant with a capacity of 700,000 tons of rolled stock and blanks a year in Zhlobin, Belorussia, is the biggest project in whose realisation many Austrian firms take part. Metallurgy can become a sphere of joint ventures of Soviet and Austrian organizations on markets of other countries, specifically, in Africa. Production cooperation in a number of industries is also expanding.

The Soviet Union supplies Austria with energy carriers necessary to it. Austria was the first of the Western countries to buy Soviet natural gas as early as in 1968. An agreement has been signed on connecting the power grids of the two countries. The deliveries from the USSR of industrial equipment, automobiles, household refrigerators, cameras and other goods are on the rise.

The USSR and Austria have extensive plans of further development of business cooperation. These plans were specified at the 15th session of the mixed intergovernmental commission held in Moscow last October, which mapped out measures for the development of both traditional and new forms of cooperation.

UN ROLE IN LEBANON SHOWS 'NO CONFIDENCE' IN U.S.

LD241230 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 23 Feb 84

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Viktor Levin]

[Text] Telegram from Lebanon report new combat actions in Beirut. As a result of artillery fire, according to the radio station of the Progressive Socialist Party, 14 people were killed and several dozen peaceful citizens were wounded.

The situation in the country remains extremely tense. Attempts by the United States and its Israeli allies to foist their will on the Lebanese people have failed, and although Washington and Tel Aviv are trying to change the progress of events, the death knell for the present administration's Middle East policy is already sounding in the U.S. press.

Under these circumstances, President Reagan has issued his latest statement on the administration's policy inthe Middle East. Reagan affirmed that Washington's policy, which he hypocritically tried to present as a policy of strengthening peace in the region, has allegedly not failed. Moreover, although things are not too good at present, to use his own words, the administration does not intend to change course. From this, one can certainly draw the conclusion that the White House is trying to disregard the severe lessons that Washington has received in Lebanon. This threatens further misfortunes for the Lebanese people and the people of the other Arab states, not to mention the political losses for the United States itself.

At the same time, definite conclusions about the situation are already being drawn in West Europe. First the British and then the Italian forces, which were part of the Multinational Force knocked together by Washington, left Lebanon. Apart from the Americans, only the French remain there.

The proposal to replace the notorious Multinational Force by armed forces of the United Nations, which should allegedly guarantee a cease-fire in Lebanon and put the peaceful population under its protection, is being discussed in the UN Security Council. According to the draft submitted for discussion in the Security Council, the armed forces of the United Nations should not include representatives of states which are permanent members of the council. That means that forces of the United States, Britain, and France, as well as those of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, must be excluded.

Under the circumstances, this proposal in my view may be seen as a clear expression of no confidence in U.S. Middle East policy.

U.S. SETS UP NEW MILITARY COMMAND IN LEBANON

LD241515 Moscow TASS in English 0516 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Washington February 24 TASS -- The United States is taking steps to consolidate it its military presence in Lebanon. An official spokesman of the Pentagon has announced that a new military command has been set in Lebanon. Its functions are to exercise direction of U.S. troops which remain in Beirut after the re-deployment of the U.S. Marine units to the U.S. naval ships off the Lebanese shores. Brigadier General of the Marines James Joy has been appointed the head of the new command which is called the Lebanese United Operations Group in Beirut. According to the Pentagon spokesman, in the event of necessity the general can directly contact the ships of the Sixth Fleet and the Marine units on board the ships. He will be directly subordinated to the headquarters of the command of the U.S. troops in Europe in Stuttgart [FRG]

SAUDI MEDIATOR ANNOUNCES LEBANON CEASE-FIRE

LD241141 Moscow TASS in English 1000 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus February 24 TASS -- Saudi Arabia's mediator in the settlement of the Lebanese conflict, Prince Bandar, announced here that a cease-fire agreement has been reached by the antagonist groupings in Lebanon. The announcement followed intensive talks between the interested parties in Damascus and Beirut. The Saudi mediator, however, declined to disclose the details of the agreement.

Lebanon Notes Cease-fire

LD241328 Moscow TASS in English 1152 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut February 24 TASS -- A cease-fire agreement between the conflicting groupings in Lebanon took effect at eleven hours local time today. This has been announced by Lebanese radio stations.

SPORADIC FIGHTING CONTINUING IN LEBANON

LD251448 Moscow TASS in English 1232 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut February 25 TASS -- Despite a ceasefire agreement, the situation in Lebanon remains tense. Yesterday night, sporadic fighting flared up once again between warring factions. Artillery duel swept to Beirut suburbs and mountainous regions. Shootouts occurred near the towns of Alayh and Suq al-Gharb. Shells blew up at night in the Muslim and Christian parts of the capital, not far from Beirut's International Airport and the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. According to press reports, in Beirut alone, 20 people were killed and 39 wounded over the night.

Lebanese patriots are continuing their strikes at Israeli invaders in the country's south. They fired on a mechanised patrol in the region of Sayda yesterday. Five Israeli troops were killed and an armoured carrier was put out of action.

Immediately after the operation, Israeli troops started punitive actions against the local population. They sealed off the region where the attack occurred and started combing the locality. Mass arrests were made among the inhabitants of the nearby villages.

A general strike in protest against the atrocities of the invaders started in the city of Tyre after Israeli troops opened fire on a demonstration yesterday in the village of Maraaka killing six civilians and wounding 45. The leader of the Lebanese Shi'ite movement Amal, N. Berri, said that inhabitants of south Lebanon will continue their struggle against the invaders as long as the last Israeli soldier remains on its soil.

U.S. USING, TESTING 'LATEST WEAPONS' IN LEBANON

LD251930 Moscow TASS in English 1531 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] New York February 25 TASS -- The American military, bringing death and destruction to the Lebanese people, uses Lebanon as a range for testing latest kinds of weapons. The NEW YORK TIMES reported that American occupation troops had tried out a new radar, called Firefighter, there, which made it possible quickly to detect fire emplacements. The information was quickly relayed to the battleship New Jersey which, as is known, has shelled Lebanese populated localities for several months. According to John Lehman, U.S. secretary of the Navy, the radar identified targets for 16-inch guns at a distance of over 15 miles.

THE NEW YORK TIMES said that Marines from the so-called Multinational Force had tested a new 155-mm howitzer in Lebanon for the first time. Upgraded shells, the secretary of the Navy said, had increased the range of fire to 19 miles and made it more accurate. A modified CH-53 helicopter with a lifting capability of 16 tons was also tested for the first time.

LATEST LEBANESE BATTLE, CASUALTY REPORTS

LD261500 Moscow TASS in English 1416 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut February 26 TASS -- A new crime has been added to a long list of bloody criminal deeds that were committed by American military in the long-suffering land of Lebanon. Warships of the Sixth U.S. Fleet which are now in Lebanese coastal waters, last night subjected to massive bombardment highland areas of the country. Artillery of American warships intensively bombarded positions of the national patriotic forces in the area of Ash-Shuf, near Beirut, and the zone controlled by the Syrian contingent, part of the inter-Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon. Large-calibre guns made 90 shots. Washington's barbarous action which was undertaken during the broadly-advertised transfer of American Marines from Beirut to warships is regarded here as evidence that United States will continue its armed interference into internal affairs of that sovereign Arab state.

Fierce exchanges of fire with the use of artillery and other types of heavy weapons took place in the highland areas of the country and the capital itself last night, despite the ceasefire agreement that was reached between the conflicting Lebanese groupings. Southern suburbs of West Beirut were subjected to bombardment. Lebanese Army units, supported by right-wing Christian formations, also fired at Alayh, Bhamdun, Ruwaysat, and other Druze towns and villages. There are civilian casualties.

Tense situation persists also in the south of Lebanon where struggle against Israeli occupationists is mounting with every passing day. Residents of the settlements of Ma'rakah, Gaziyah, put up stubborn resistance to the interventionists who have been terrorizing civilian population for the third day now. Israeli soldiers repeatedly opened there fire on defenceless people. In reply, reports the newspaper AL SAFIR, fighting men of the Shi'ite "Amal" movement took prisoner 15 Israeli soldiers in the course of a combat operation against invaders in Ma'rakah. Mass demonstrations against terror and arbitrary rule, perpetrated by the Israeli military administration, were held in many towns and villages of south Lebanon. A women's manifestation of protest was held in Sayda. Its participants chanted slogans calling for an end to Israeli occupation.

Lebanese patriots conducted two successful operations yesterday. They fired at Israeli military patrols on the Sayda-Tyre highway and also in vicinities of Sayda. There are casualties among the occupationists.

LEBANESE 'PATRIOTS' KILL 5 ISRAELIS IN AMBUSH

LD242046 Moscow TASS in English 2002 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut February 24 TASS -- Lebanese patriots are continuing to deal blows to Israeli invaders in the south of this country. They ambushed an Israeli mechanized patrol in the area of the city of Sayda, killing five troops and putting their armoured personnel carrier out of action, Beirut radio reported.

Right after the guerrilla operation Israeli forces launched punitive actions against the local population. They sealed off the area, where the ambush had taken place, and began to come it. Wholesale arrests were carried out among the inhabitants of local villages.

DFLP FIGURES PRAISE USSR, SYRIAN SUPPORT

LD261451 Moscow TASS in English 1111 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus February 26 TASS -- The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) over 15 years of its existence has achieved considerable successes in foiling imperialism's and Zionism's plans aimed at liquidating the Palestinian problem, stated Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council. Speaking at a mass meeting which has taken place in the Syrian capital on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the formation of the DFLP, he condemned imperialism's and Zionism's attempts at imposing capitulatory plans upon the Palestinian people, and stated that neither the Camp David agreements nor the "Reagan plan" will ever be accepted by the Palestinians. Khalid al-Fahum called for strengthening the unity of the Palestinian revolution organisations.

The Palestinian figure highly appreciated support by the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist community for the just struggle of the Arab people of Palestine.

Speaking at the meeting, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, deputy general secretary of the DFLP, pointed out the need to further rally the Palestinian ranks in the struggle against any attempts at splitting and weakening the Palestinian revolution.

He emphasized the importance of strengthening the alliance between Syria, the Lebanese National-Patriotic Forces and the Palestinian revolution for the Palestinian people's successful struggle for the exercise of their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state of their own under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative -- the Palestine Liberation Organization.

IRAN, IRAQ COMBAT OPERATIONS CONTINUE

PM241452 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS reports under the general heading: "Iran-Iraq: Fierce Fighting"]

[Text] Nicosia, 23 Feb -- The IRNA Agency reports that last night the Iranian Armed Forces continued active combat operations on the southern section of the front. As the agency asserts, they captured heights on the approaches to the city of 'Ali al Gharbi, cut the Baghdad-Basra Highway, and reached the Tigris River, capturing 15 Iraqi villages. One Iraqi aircraft was shot down.

Baghdad, 23 Feb -- The Iraqi Army has completely beaten off a new Iranian offensive to the east of Basra, a communique of the Iraqi Chief Military Command states. The country's mass media evaluate the events on the front as "a decisive battle of the Iran-Iraq war."

Beirut, 23 Feb -- The armed conflict between Iran and Iraq, which is now in its 4th year, is causing growing concern in the region. The war has brought incalculable misfortunes and suffering to the peoples of both countries. Hundreds of thousands of servicemen and peaceful inhabitants have died as a result of combat operations, dozens of major population centers have been devastated, and numerous industrial projects, including oil installations, have been destroyed. Iran and Iraq have suffered tremendous economic damage calculated at tens of billions of dollars.

The press of Near East countries has repeatedly pointed to the need for the speediest ending of the bloody conflict, emphasizing that this would further the interests of the peoples of Iran and Iraq. It is also pointed out that the continuation of military operations merely serves the interests of imperialist circles, and above all, the United States, which is using the conflict to build up its military presence in the Persian Gulf zone and to threaten the region's sovereign states.

KHAMENE'I WARNS U.S., UK ON SHIPS IN GULF

LD251623 Moscow TASS in English 1400 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Nicosia February 25 TASS -- Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has issued a statement to the Persian Gulf, IRNA news agency reported. The British ships have arrived to reinforce the American fleet, he said. If the United States and Britain interfere, their lot will be worse than in Lebanon, he was quoted as saying.

U.S., UK 'ACTIVE ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE' IN GULF

LD250241 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1545 GMT 24 Feb 84

[From "The World Today" program presented by Farid Seyful-Mulyukov]

[Text] Another war in the Near East that has flared up again with renewed virulence in the last few days, the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq, today attracts the close attention of the foreign media. This devastating and senseless conflict has now been going on for 3 1/2 years. It has cost hundreds of thousands of lives on both sides; many towns and villages lie in ruins, oil incomes have drastically fallen, and oil pipelines and refineries have been destroyed. Yet the war between Iran and Iraq continues, causing new destruction and casualties.

It is announced in Baghdad that during the night of 21 February Iranian troops began a large-scale offensive with the objective of seizing Iraqi territory. Tehran claims that the Iranian Army has already taken 200 sq km in southern Iraq, near the port of Basra, including the key point of Al-Qurnah, at the confluence of the Tigris and the Euphrates. However, the Baghdad authorities have refuted these reports. A communique from the Iraqi military command says that, in the course of the fighting to the east of Basra, the Iranian offensive was repulsed. Be that as it may, the latest battles have been fierce. A correspondent of the American Television Company CBS reports that there are now 750,000 officers and men of both sides concentrated along the front line. This is, indeed, a major war.

The TIMES explains the present Iranian offensive as evidently a last serious attempt to strike deep into Iraqi territory. The main reason for it, the paper writes, is that work will soon begin on the construction of a big oil pipeline linking Iraq with Saudi Arabia. When it is brought into operation, Iraq's income from exports will increase, producing a healthier economy and thus strengthening Iraq's defenses, in the opinion of the British paper.

More and more active attempts to interfere in the Iran-Iraq conflict are being made by certain Western countries, above all, by the U.S. and Britain. There are about 30 U.S. warships in the vicinity of the Persian Gulf, including the aircraft carrier "Midway." Western observers say Washington is ready to use military force under the pretext of protecting the security of the oil route through the Strait of Hormuz.

The West German newspaper KOLNER STADT-ANZEIGER writes there is another element in Washington's reaction to the war between Iran and Iraq: The withdrawal of the American Marines from Lebanon is a political defeat for U.S. President Reagan, says the paper, fears that his thesis of the 'rebirth of America' could be brought to nought, and this, inturn, threatens to reduce his chances of reelection. It is evidently for this reason that the White House has seized on the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq in order to flex its military muscles in the Persian Gulf, which has long been declared to be a zone of vital American interests. As I said, new American warships have been deployed. London doesn't want to be left behind: One of the Royal Navy's most up-to-date frigates, "Brazen," which took part in the Falklands adventure, has also been sent there, and it is reported from London that the frigates "(?Aurora), "Rothesay," and the aircraft carrier "Invincible Way" may very soon be sent to the Persian Gulf.

Margaret Thatcher has said outright in the House of Commons that the British ships may take part, together with the U.S. naval forces, in military operations in the Persian Gulf. All this war fever is taking place under the flag of protecting the oil shipping through the Straits of Hormuz. Apparently the inglorious lesson of their armed adventure in Lebanon has not been enough for Washington and its NATO partners, and they are now switching their military activities to the Persian Gulf.

LIBYA'S ANTI-IMPERIALISM, USSR FRIENDSHIP NOTED

LD261814 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Nikolay Andreyev commentary: "Roots of the Anti-Libyan Policy of the United States"]

[Text] There are hardly any ills which the official Washington and American information media do not attribute to the Libyan Jamahiriyah to arouse anti-Libyan feelings. For example, the U.S. State Department has officially informed American tourists and businessmen that their lives will be exposed to danger in Libya. Earlier, the White House had banned experts to Libya of equipment for the gas and petroleum industries, and advised U.S. citizens operating under contracts in the Jamahiriyah to leave the country. America constantly accuses Libya of foreign political terrorism and of interference in the internal affairs of other countries, particularly Chad.

There is no need for us to say that all these accusations are ridiculous and unfounded. There are about 1 million foreigners of over 100 nationalities working in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, including Americans. They all live and work not only in a state of complete security but also enjoy the respect of the authorities and the Libyan people.

(Jim Boston), an Occidental Company representative, stated that Americans working in Libya are living under normal conditons and do not sense any discrimination. He added that the Libyan society is free of social ills such as crime and the acts of violence prevailing in the United States.

With regard to Chad, the whole world knows that the Libyan Jamahiriyah was the first to take an initiative to achieve a peaceful solution to the Chad problem. The only reason for the failure to peacefully solve the Chad problem lies in the fact that Hissein Habre, the protege of the United States and other NATO member countries, on the orders of the masters, openly thwarts the talks on settling the Chad problem.

Where then do the roots of the many-years' sinister campaign which Washington has been waging against Libya lie? The main reason lies in the anti-imperialist foreign policy practiced by the Libyan Jamahiriyah. For a long time Washington and its partners chose the Mediterranean as one of the principal areas for their military presence, which they hoped would enable them to dominate southern Europe, Northern Africa, the Middle East and the most important international trade routes. There are now over 500 warships and over 400 aircraft at the disposal of the commander general of NATO's armed forces in southern Europe. Furthermore, nuclear missiles have been deployed at the Comiso base in Sicily.

In the face of this military mania, the Libyan Jamahiriyah, a North African country, strongly, constantly, and at all international conferences opposes attempts to turn the Mediterranean into a bridgehead for American aggression, and struggles to turn the Mediterranean into a nuclear-free zone and an area of international peace and cooperation.

The United States has repeatedly tried to intimidate Libya to force it to abandon its anti-imperialist stand. The American 6th Fleet was sent to the shores of the Libyan Jamahariyah; regular, provocative maneuvers are carried out during which troops are trained to deal blows to Libya. Furthermore, Libya's territorial waters and skies are also violated.

However, all these imperialist intrigues have failed to achieve their objective. The Libyan Jamahiriyah continues its chosen policy.

Washington is also angered by the reputation the Libyan Jamahiriyah's foreign policy enjoys among the other Mediterranean and Middle East countries. In recent times the Libyan Jamahiriyah has clearly bolstered its relations with Malta, the Maghreb, Syria, and the other countries. Libya's attitude toward the Middle East problem is also realistic and constructive. Washington is further angered by the strong friendship Libya has with the countries of the socialist bloc and the USSR, and its multi-sided and broad cooperation with these countries.

The Libyan Jamahiriyah not only rejects the American allegations about the so-called Soviet threat, but also considers the USSR a faithful friend of the Arabs. Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the commander of the Libyan revolution, has declared that the USSR is a friend of the Arab peoples on whom they can rely when the need arises.

JORDAN TO BREAK OFF RELATIONS WITH LIBYA

LD231408 Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Amman February 23 TASS -- A decision has been announced here of the Jordanian Cabinet of Ministers to break off diplomatic relations with Libya because of the recent attack by demonstrators against the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli.

Tripoli February 23 TASS -- According to a JANA agency report, a mass demonstration of protest was held outside the Jordanian Embassy in the Libyan capital in protest against the visit of King Husayn to the United States and his talks with American officials. Despite the fact that security measures were taken, the agency notes, the demonstrators attacked the embassy building.

DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA REVIEWED

PM241610 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS reports under the general heading: "Around the Problems of Southern Africa"]

[Text] Luanda, 22 Feb -- The People's Republic of Angola is striving to establish peace in the south of the African Continent, Angolan Minister of Interior M.A. Rodrigues, member of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party Central Committee Politburo, has declared. He spoke here at a press conference devoted to the results of talks with representatives of the Republic of South Africa [RSA] and the United States in Lusaka.

During the meeting Angola demanded that the Pretoria regime put an end to its aggressive actions against Angola and withdraw South African troops from its territory, and insisted on the restoration of Angola's legal borders, the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia, and the cessation of the South African racists' support for the terrorist gangs of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], M.A. Rodrigues, who was heading his country's delegation at these talks, reported. He reaffirmed the republic's solidarity with the just struggle of Namibian patriots headed by the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) for freedom and independence, stressing the identity of Angolan and SWAPO positions on the question of Namibia's decolonialization. M.A. Rodrigues noted that the 4 February 1982 Angolan-Cuban joint declaration which gives a decisive rebuff to the attempts by Washington and Pretoria to link the granting of independence to Namibia to the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola remains in force.

As a result of the talks, the minister said, an agreement has been reached on a South African troop withdrawal from Angola. A mixed military commission has been set up to oversee this process. However, he pointed out, there are still South African Army units in Angola's southern regions.

The Angolan side, M.A. Rodrigues noted, raised the question at the Lusaka meeting particularly of the actions of UNITA gangs in areas occupied by the Pretoria regime. He drew attention to the impermissibility of any transfer of UNITA gangs from Namibia to Angola.

Lusaka, 22 Feb -- South Africa's promise to withdraw its troops from Angola's southern regions as a preparatory stage to talks on granting Namibia independence must be proved in practice, Zambian President K. Kaunda stated here. He noted that Zambia's position on the question of the decolonization of Namibia remains invariable: The Namibian problem must be settled on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 435.

Dar Es Salaam, 22 Feb -- The sincerity of the Pretoria regime's recently announced decision to hold businesslike peace talks with Mozambique, Angola, and other neighboring African countries should not be believed, the Tanzanian Government newspaper DAILY NEWS writes. The aim of Pretoria's current diplomatic maneuvers, undertaken in a deal with the United States, is to wrest concessions from the "front-line" states which would ensure the maintenance of the apartheid regime and the occupation of Namibia by South African troops. It ought to be noted, the newspaper stresses, that the South African Government remains opposed to eradicating racial discrimination and granting Namibia independence.

The struggle for peace and security in Southern Africa is being waged on two fronts -- the diplomatic and the military. However, the current talks, the DAILY NEWS points out, should not cast doubt on the African countries' firm stance on questions of the struggle against apartheid and for the speedy granting of independence to Namibia. We must achieve the implementation of Resolution 435.

Harare, 22 Feb -- Peace talks between South Africa and neighboring countries are preferable to combat operations, the Zimbabwean newspaper THE HERALD writes. However, it points out, it must be remembered that in the past the Pretoria authorities have repeatedly demonstrated an amazing capacity for cynicism and a readiness for talks which produce no results.

London, 22 Feb -- The rapidity with which the RSA has decided to swap its role of aggressor in Southern Africa for that of a "supporter of peace and stability" is astonishing even the most cynical diplomats, Britain's THE DAILY TELEGRAPH writes in a commentary devoted to the Mozambique-South Africa talks.

MOSCOW OBSERVER DOUBTS SINCERITY OF RSA POSITION

LD251214 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpt] As usual on Saturdays, the international section of our program includes a review of letters from listeners. I invite to the microphone political observer Bronislav Myakota. Bronislav Frantsevich, please:

Many of our listeners are interested in the situation in southern Africa. Thus, (Sergey Nikolayevich Lukashov) from Krasnodar, (Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Debenko) from Ozngorou ask about the situation in Angola.

Esteemed comrades, new aspects appeared recently in the situation in southern Africa. People in the West are even talking of an alleged goodwill gesture by the Republic of South Africa which allowed a meeting to take place in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, between representatives of Angola, South Africa, and United States. But I would like to stress that the South African racists and their protectors did not come to the conference table out of goodwill. They were forced to do this by a number of factors. Primarily, because attempts by the Pretoria racists to supress by force of arms the Namibian people's resistance have failed. Nor could the racists force the frontline states to capitulate, even though stubborn pressure, including military pressure, was applied to them.

People's Angola gave a resolute rebuff to the South African racists. Its army was an insurmountable obstacle in the way of the armored columns which made incursions into Angola and the aggressors were forced to turn back. It must also be noted that the militaristic course creates considerable internal problems for the Republic of South Africa. South African soldiers are dying in Namibia and Angola. The war against the people of Namibia swallows up many millions of rands every year and this is a heavy burden for the country's economy.

It was for these external and internal reasons that the Pretoria regime was forced to begin talks with Angola. Agreement was reached in Lusaka on the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola. A joint military commission was set up to observe this process. But the South African occupationists are still in Angola's southern regions.

Subversive activity continues to be carried out in Angola by gangs of the UNITA counterrevolutionary organization which is maintained by hte special services of the Republic of South Africa and the United States. During the meeting in Lusaka, Angola demanded that the Pretoria regime should end its aggressive actions against the People's Republic of Angola and demanded restoration of the country's legitimate borders, implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 435 on Namibia and ending support for the UNITA gangs.

The Angolan leaders have frequently stated their strivings for the establishment of peace in the south of the African Continent and by their specific deeds have proved the seriousness of this striving. As far as South Africa's position is concerned, the sincerity of the racists' good intentions arouses great doubts among the peoples of the African countries. It is necessary to recall, the Zimbabwe THE HERALD writes, that in the past the Pretoria authorities have demonstrated a wonderful capability for cynicism and readiness for talks which give no results.

MOZAMBIQUE INDUSTRY MINISTER ENDS USSR VISIT

LD251213 Moscow in Portuguese to Portugal 1830 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Antonio Branco, industry and energy minister of the People's Republic of Mozambique, ended his visit to the Soviet Union on 23 February. The minister was in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR State Committee for International Economic Relations. The two sides exchanged views on the development of trade relations and economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. They particularly examined the possibilities for setting up an agricultural implements factory in Beira and improving the port of Maputo's technical installations, which were set up in 1982 with the Soviet Union's assistance.

On leaving the Soviet Union the Mozambique minister expressed satisfaction with the results of his visit. I have no doubts, Antonio Branco said, that the objectives of this trip to the Soviet Union have been achieved and the talks took place in a spirit of utmost mutual understanding.

U.S. 'DEMOCRATIZATION' OF LATIN AMERICA HIT

LD242025 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1809 GMT 23 Feb 84

["'Democracy' Washington-Style" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 23 February. TASS correspondent Pyotr Parkhitko reports:

Speaking in Peoria (State of Illinois) on Wednesday, George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, maintained that in recent years in Latin America "military and right-wing regimes have been developing actively towards democratization." And here are Cuba and Nicaragua, he complained, which do not wish to take part in this process.

By his entirely false statement, the head of the U.S. foreign policy department breaks all the records of hypocrisy and cynicism. After all it has been particularly in recent years that the dictatorships praised by him -- for example, in Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala -- have been committing one horrible crime after another against their own peoples. The lives of tens of thousands of people have been ruined, basic citizens' rights and freedoms have been liquidated, and elections at any level have been turned into a shameful farce.

Furthermore, the U.S. secretary of state does not hide his liking for these regimes, calling them almost "pillars of democracy." And the background of this position is quite simple: The named dictatorships are Washington's most reliable and devoted friends, or, to be more precise, its obedient puppets in Latin America. From their territories Washington is preparing aggression against governments not to its liking, and organizes diversions and subversive actions.

In contrast to them Cuba and Nicaragua, pursuing independent policies, are the subjects of military provocations, blackmail and threats from the USA. Washington is waging a malicious propaganda campaign against them, accusing them of lack of democracy and of violations of human rights. And, as was shown in the case of Grenada, the United States does not stop short of the use of armed force against sovereign states not to its liking. "Democracy" Washington-style means in practice support for the most antidemocratic dictatorial regimes. The pharisaical statements about the "defense of human rights," made by Washington's politicians serve only as a cover for a high-handed interference into internal affairs of other states not to the liking of the United States.

NICARAGUAN OFFICIALS CITED ON U.S. ACTIONS

Borge, Ramos

LD241718 Moscow TASS in English 1658 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Managua February 24 TASS -- TASS correspondent Sergey Gorbunov reports: The Central Intelligence Agency plans in the next few months to escalate hostile actions against Nicaragua, Tomas Borge, member of the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front and interior minister of Nicaragua, said here.

Speaking at a press conference for local and foreign journalists, he said that the actions of the United States and counter-revolutionaries aim to frustrate the process of democratic changes in Nicaragua, in particular the first free elections in the country's history slated for November this year. Seeking to attain its criminal ends the American spy agency is trying to unite armed groups of mercenaries based in Honduras and Costa Rica in order to organize their joint raids into Nicaraguan territory.

From the start of this year, Julio Ramos, chief of the military intelligence service of the Sandinist People's Army, told journalists, more than 300 hirelings have been killed. The counter-revolutionary gangs are unable to destabilize people's power, they have in a large measure been routed and demoralized. The threat of a direct armed intervention by the United States still remains the main danger. Under the pretext of endless joint maneuvers Washington is increasing its military presence in Honduras. Even now that the latest of these maneuvers are formally over, there are some 3,000 American Marines remaining in Honduras. The Pentagon has set up six airfields in Honduran territory, which can accomodate heavy U.S. military planes. Older military bases have been upgraded and new ones built. The U.S. plan is to stir up an armed conflict in Central America and accomplish a direct aggression against the Nicaraguan people.

Ortega On U.S. 'Blackmail'

LD270946 Moscow TASS in English 0830 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] Managua February 27 TASS -- The unshakeable determination of the Nicarguan people to fight arms in hand for the freedom and independence of the homeland is the main obstacle in the way of the Reagan administration's aggressive designs in Central America, said member of the national leadership of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the republic's Defence Minister Humberto Ortega. He was addressing a mass rally in the city of Esteli on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the formation of the Sandinist People's Militia.

The United States, Humberto Ortega said, threatens an armed intervention against Nicaragua following the pattern of the disgraceful aggression against the Grenadian people. The Washington administration has flooded Honduras with thousands of American Marines, encircled Nicaragua with its naval ships and even drew up a concrete plan for the capture of Managua by American paratroopers. The White House is continuing political and economic pressure on the Nicaraguan revolution in the hope of breaking the will and putting the people of Nicaragua on its knees.

Despite the armed blackmail and threats of the USA, the defence minister pointed out, the Nicaraguans do not wish to yield to imperialist diktat. In the event of an aggression against our country the American interventionists will meet with the resistance of the people who are ready to defend their homeland to the last drop of their blood. In an answer to the toughening of aggressive intrigues of the Untied States hundreds of thousands citizens of the republic have joined the ranks of the Sandinist People's Militia. Late last year alone, Humberto Ortega said, the number of "Milicianos" has more than doubled.

Nicaragua wishes no war and is ready to carry on the struggle for the triumph of common sense and dialogue. At the same time the Nicaraguan Government will further uphold the republic's sovereignty and strengthen the truly people's democracy, which is an inseparable part of our revolutionary process, Humberto Ortega stressed.

PERUVIAN PAPER CITED ON U.S. MISSILES TO CHILE

LD251652 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] The Peruvian newspaper LA REPUBLICA has reported that Washington intends to supply the fascist Pinochet dictatorship with Pershing I nuclear missiles. They will be sent to Chile from West Germany as Pershing II's are deployed there.

The report stresses that Washington has already supplied its puppets in Santiago with 4,000 chemical warheads for missiles and other offensive weapons. It is well-known that Pinochet and his antipeople clique came to power and are holding onto it with the help of U.S. bayonets. The report from Peru shows that Washington is now taking steps to give its obedient puppets new qualities. Offensive weapons will turn the fascist Pinochet regime into a U.S. gendarme in Latin America, which is prepared to impose order in those countries where power is held by people who are pursuing policies which Washington does not care for. The U.S. plan to supply Chile with Pershing I's is a crude violation of the international Tlaltelolco Treaty on outlawing nuclear weapons in Latin America.

This is not the first time the Washington authorities have violated their international undertakings. In this respect one should recall that, among other things, Washington has violated the international agreement on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. For example, the U.S. brasshats tried to provide the Republic of South Africa, Israel, and Pakistan with nuclear potential to be used for military purposes. On every occasion this has led to destabilization of the situation in the corresponding regions, and to the the creation of a real danger of international conflicts.

And now U.S. nuclear missiles could fall into the hands of the fascist Pinochet clique which, as we know, is prepared to commit any crimes both within the country and outside it. The appearance of U.S. nuclear missiles in Latin America is fraught with a real threat to the security of the peoples of the region.

USSR-MEXICO TRADE COMMISSION TALKS CONTINUE

LD240841 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Correspondent Igor Goranskiy dispatch from Mexico -- recorded]

[Text] The meeting of the third session of the Soviet-Mexican joint commission on trade continues in Mexico. The meeting should end on Friday with the signing of a protocol on goods turnover between the two countries for 1984-1985. The protocol envisages a further expansion of trade, something that meets the mutual interests of the two countries. The Soviet Union will be selling to Mexico tractors, machines, and equipment for the textile industry, drilling installations, metal-working machine tools, and medical equipment. It will purchase in return metal pipes, zinc and lead concentrate, ready-made garments, synthetic and natural fibres, coffee, cocoa beans, and pepper.

The Soviet Union and Mexico mark this year the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations and the development of trade between the two countries represents a concrete contribution to the cause of consolidating friendly Soviet-Mexican relations.

DEPUTY TRADE MINISTER IN MEXICO FOR TALKS

For reportage on Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Viktor Ivanov's arrival in Mexico City and coverage of the visit, see the Mexico section of the 23 February Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

CHERNENKO SPEAKS AT CPSU POLITBURO MEETING

PM271023 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 84 First Edition p 1

["At the CPSU Central Committee Politburo" -- PRAVDA headline]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee Politburo at its regular meeting considered a number of matters of organizational-political and propaganda work in connection with the results of the February 1984 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee. Speaking at the Politburo meeting, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, defined the most important directions of Soviet economic development, a further rise in the working people's well-being, the strengthening of the country's defense potential, and improvement of planning and economic management -- which must be the constant concern of the party and state. The central and local party, administrative, and economic organizations are called upon consistently to strengthen their links with the masses, to improve not only economic work but also educational work, to strive to stimulate all the creative energies of the people, and to raise the consciousness and the ideological conviction of Soviet people.

It is planned to extensively discuss the results of the February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee at plenums of party committees and meetings of party aktivs; at primary party organizations; within trade union, Komsomol, and other public organizations; and at sessions of collegiums of ministries and departments. In the process, foremost importance must be given to the fulfillment of state plans; the spreading of socialist competition; the persistent implementation of measures to intensify production; the application of scientific and technological achievements; and the increase of the level of organization, order, and discipline. The Politburo noted that all work to implement and explain the directives of the February Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee must be aimed at further strengthening the unity and cohesion of party ranks, and the mobilization of the working people for the unconditional implementation of plan tasks and socialist pledges in 1984 and the 5-year period as a whole.

The meeting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo discussed the results of the talks held between Comrades Chernenko, Tikhonov, Gromyko, Ustinov, Aliyev, Kuznetsov, Ponomarev, Rusakov, and the heads of foreign delegations that came to the Soviet Union to attend the funeral of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov. In approving these talks, the Politburo again stressed the invariability and continuity of the course of our party and state for the strengthening of friendship and cohesion of the fraternal socialist countries, solidarity with peoples fighting for their national liberation, for peace and social progress, and for the implementation of the principles of peaceful coexistence and mutually advantageous cooperation between states with differing sociopolitical systems.

The CPSU Central Committee Politburo heard reports from USSR Ministers Comrades Mesyats, Vasilyev, Yezhevskiy, and Khitrun on the progress of carrying out preparations for the spring sowing and the supply of good-quality seeds, fertilizer, equipment, and other resources to farms. The attention of the ministries was drawn to the need to eliminate the shortcomings and arrears existing in this work, and to draw up and implement additional measures to ensure that the planned volumes of production and procurement of grain and other arable farming produce are obtained. In the process, foremost attention must be given to work on the spot at kolkhozes and sovkhozes, within teams and departments, where well-thought-out decisions should be promptly adopted in specific conditions -- decisions that make it possible to skillfully deploy manpower and material and technical resources, and prevent their loss and squandering.

Party committees have been set the task of intensifying party influence on the decisive a areas of work; raising the efficacy of socialist competition; ensuring that every worker deeply understands the exceptional importance of a punctual and good-quality carrying-out of the entire range of agrotechnical measures, which is an obligatory condition for obtaining a big harvest; and creating an atmosphere of intolerance for all manifestations of irresponsibility and sloppiness, violations of production, and technological discipline. The Central Committees of Communist Parties of union republics, kraykoms, obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms of the party are instructed to ensure that there is further improvement in party leadership of all detachments of the agro-industrial complex, boost the mood for work in all areas, and ensure a creative approach to the fulfillment of responsible tasks involved in the struggle for the harvest of the 4th year of the 5-year plan.

The meeting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo also discussed certain other questions of party, state, and economic construction.

CHERNENKO NAMED DEFENSE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

OW260310 Beijing XINHUA in English 0247 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 25 (XINHUA) -- Soviet Communist Party Secretary-General Konstantin Chernenko has been named chairman of the Council of Defense of the U.S.S.R.

This was disclosed by Nikolay Ogarkov, chief of the general staff of the Soviet Armed Forces, at a reception on Friday to mark the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army Day. But this has not been reported in the Soviet press yet.

According to the practice in the time of Leonid Brezhnev and Yuriy Andropov, the chairmanship of the Council of Defense goes automatically to the party secretary-general.

CHERNENKO TO MAKE ELECTION SPEECH 2 MARCH

LD270953 Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The final week of the election campaign has begun in the Soviet Union. Elections to the national parliament will be held next Sunday, 4th March. Candidates running for parliament are meeting the voters throughout the country. The general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko will make his election speech on Friday.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS CHANGES DAY OF REST

LD241723 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Comrades, the USSR Council of Ministers has decided to transfer the rest day from Sunday, 11 March to Firday, 9 March 1984.

KUZNETSOV ADDRESSES VOLGOGRADSKIY ELECTION MEETING

PM231240 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Toward New Heights of Communist Creation: V.V. Kuznetsov Meeting with Voters]

[Text] Representatives of Volgograd Oblast labor collectives who assembled in the theater in the hero-city on the Volga 22 February declared their loyalty to the cause of October and the cause of the party and their unanimous approval and warm support for its wise domestic and foreign policy. A meeting was held here between Volgogradskiy Electoral Okrug voters and Vasiliy Vasilyevich Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who is the okrug's candidate deputy for the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities.

The meeting was opened by V.I. Kalashnikov, first secretary of Volgograd CPSU Obkom.

The meeting's participants enthusiastically elected an honorary presidium comprising the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

G.V. Bukayev, the candidate deputy's agent, fitters' team leader at the Volgograd tractor plant, spoke about V.V. Kuznetsov's career and called on the voters to vote unanimously on election day for the candidates of the indestructible bloc of Communists and nonparty people.

The following addressed the meeting: V.I. Atopov, chairman of Volgograd Gorispolkom; M.M. Zagorulko, rector of Volgograd State University; A.N. Orlov, first secretary of Sredneakhtubinskiy CPSU Raykom; Ye.P. Furayeva, chief of the Volga-Don Specialized Production Association's livestock complex; and I.A. Sevostyanova, student at the Volgograd State Pedagogical Institute.

The working people of Volgogradskiy Electoral Okrug emphasized in their speeches that they unanimously support the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary plenum mobilizing Soviet people to fulfill the tasks of communist building. The speakers gave assurances that the labor collectives will daily increase their efforts to successfully implement the decisions of the 26th party congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums and the 5-year plan targets.

V.V. Kuznetsov, who was warmly greeted by the voters, delivered a speech at the meeting. He expressed his feelings of appreciation and gratitude to all the collectives of working people for the high honor accorded him of nomination as candidate deputy for the USSR Supreme Soviet.

I attribute your trust, the speaker said, wholly to our wise Leninist Party. I have seen and continue to see the meaning of work and of all life as consisting in serving the party's great cause. V.V. Kuznetsov assured people that he will devote all his strength, knowledge, and experience to steadily implementing the grand plans of communist creation.

All of us, the candidate deputy continued, have fresh in our hearts and memories the sorrowful days of party from Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, outstanding figure in the Communist Party and Soviet state whose whole life was devoted unstintingly to serving the interests of the working people and to building communism. But, as always during periods of severe trials and at difficult points in history, the party's monolithic cohesion and its unshakable unity with the people have again shown themselves. Soviet people are rallying even more closely around their tested vanguard and are expressing their full support for the political course pursued by the party.

This course is consistent and steadfast.

The extraordinary February Plenum, in an atmosphere of unanimity and cohesion, elected Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, an outstanding figure of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, talented organizer, and steadfast, principled fighter of the Leninist type for the implementation of the party's great ideals, as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Communists and all Soviet people have fervently supported the plenum's decision.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko's plenum speech clearly emphasized the firm resolve to ensure the continuity and immutability of the party's general line and defined decisive areas of work and key avenues for the application of the efforts of the party and the people.

"The main thing now," Konstantin Ustinovich emphasized, "is to consolidate the positive developments in all spheres of public life. It is particularly important now, comrades, to emphasize concrete matters and to seek to achieve real and substantial results."

Our party, V.V. Kuznetsov observed, is going into the elections with a scientifically based political platform which all Soviet people understand and value. It finds its concentrated expression in the decisions of the 26th party congress and of the subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. The decisions are aimed at securing the very rapid changeover of the country's economy to a high-efficiency path of development, improving the forms and methods of management, accelerating scientific and technical progress, strengthening organization, discipline, and order at every level of state and social life, and improving the standard of ideological and political education work. Taken all together, this amounts to a single general line fully reflecting the need to improve developed socialism at a crucial stage in the implementation of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and of the 11th 5-Year Plan targets.

The speech went on to analyze the main results of the country's economic and social development in past years and noted the contribution of the working people of Volgograd and Saratov Oblasts belonging to Volgogradskiy Electoral Okrug to the Soviet people's impressive achievements under the Leninist party's leadership.

The economy of these oblasts is developing in labor step with the whole of the country. Industry successfully completed the targets for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan.

Agriculture completed the third year of the 5-year plan more successfully than the first two. The motherland's granaries received more than 6 million tons of grain from the two oblasts. In line with the 1983 All-Union Socialist Competition results, the city of Volgograd, Saratov Oblast, and many collectives of enterprises, construction projects, kolkhozes, and sovkhozes have been awarded the Challenge Red Banners of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the Komsomol Central Committee.

Everything that our party does, it does in the name of man and for man so as to raise Soviet people's material and spiritual living standard. In past years the people's prosperity has grown steadily and Soviet citizens' rights and freedoms have become deeper and more effective in content.

Soviet people rightly connect all the achievements in the economy and in implementing a broad social program with the Communist Party's multifaceted activity. Communists and all Soviet people regard the fact that it has been possible in a relatively short time, as the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum noted, to rectify the state of affairs in a number of areas, increase cadres' initiative, responsibility, and confidence in their own abilities, and raise the level of the masses' creative activity as convincing confirmation of the correctness of the course being pursued by the party and of the vital necessity of the measures adopted on the Central Committee's initiative, which have received nationwide support. The Leninist party's strength lies in the people's trust and in unity with the people. For the party there is not and cannot be anything more sublime than the people's trust.

The increased rate of economic growth and of certain indicators achieved in 1983 is only the beginning of a real qualitative improvement. It is important now to maintain this pace, to develop the positive trends more energetically, and to make them stable in character. We must take every possible measure to prevent the slightest hitches and to ensure strict fulfillment of plan targets, with no allowances made for difficulties.

The primary condition for this, as the Central Committee December (1983) Plenum and the extraordinary February Plenum emphasized, is efficient organization of all work both centrally and locally. This affects not only production, although production is the decisive link. What is involved is raising the level of organization in every component of the state machinery, at all stages of management, and in every sphere of social life.

The main thing here is to strive persistently to further strengthen discipline and instill order everywhere. It is precisely this which the party regards as of paramount importance in the nationwide struggle to improve developed socialism.

The paramount task now is to ensure that the struggle for discipline and order in industry develops on an increasingly democratic basis and that millions more working people are involved in it. As it receives nationwide support the movement for high conscious discipline should increasingly become the working people's own cause. It is necessary to strive to comprehensively strengthen the singleminded desire of the millions acting "in unison" to establish and maintain the necessary order at all levels of production and in all spheres of state and social life.

V.V. Kuznetsov's speech drew attention to bottlenecks and shortcomings in the development of the national and regional economy.

The speaker highlighted some key tasks facing working people in Volgograd and Saratov Oblasts in light of the decision of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent Central Committee plenums. While persistently intensifying production, it is necessary to more energetically improve its technical base -- the main accelerator of labor productivity -- to constantly and consistently put scientific and technical achievements into practice, and to step up the thrift policy at all levels of the national economy. It is necessary to strive more purposefully to achieve an above-plan increase in labor productivity and an additional reduction in production costs, an increase in the equipment shift index, and an improvement in the quality of goods and to strictly observe contractual commitments. While increasing the effectiveness of socialist competition and aiming it toward improving qualitative indicators it is necessary to introduce leading experience more actively, to make fuller use of the great potential of the team organization of labor, and to launch a nationwide movement for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the plans for this year and the 5-year plan as a whole.

Soviets of people's deputies are called on, the candidate deputy went on to say, to take the most direct and effective part in the resolution of the set tasks in improving developed socialism. The point is to improve soviets' leadership of state, economic, and sociocultural building, to step up their transforming influence on practice, and to consolidate the legal bases of developed socialism.

Soviets, guided by party organs, are waging a persistent struggle to fulfill the 1984 plan, to implement the Energy and Food Programs, to ensure comprehensive economic and social development, to improve organization, discipline, and order in all areas of work, to increase the production and improve the quality of consumer goods, and to improve housing construction and sociocultural and consumer services to the population.

The importance of soviet sessions has increased, the activeness of standing commissions has grown, and their work has become more public. This has made it possible in particular to achieve tangible improvements in consumer goods production.

A paramount task for soviets at all levels is their participation, under the guidance of party organs, in working people's education and in molding people worthy of a society of developed socialism.

Soviets are called on to resolve a whole range of ideological-educational and cultural enlightenment tasks as party of the party's tremendous work to radically improve the ideological backup of communist creation. The essence of those tasks is to provide every Soviet person with the full potential for his all-around development.

The Central Committee June (1983) Plenum deemed it expedient, in particular, to disseminate the experience of setting up cultural and sports complexes in every rayon under the jurisdiction of local soviets regardless of their departmental affiliation. Work is being done in this direction but lacks breadth and vigor in a number of places, including your oblasts.

It is very important to step up work at people's homes, to give it a systematic nature, and to make skillful use of the entire range of means of influencing people's hearts and minds. Leading soviet workers must keep the population better informed and must study working people's feelings and everyday needs. Listening to the masses' opinion and constantly consulting working people -- these must be the paramount duty of every leader.

The CPSU Central Committee's proposals on the main avenues of the reform of general education and vocational schools are now being discussed. Soviets should generalize everything of value that has been accumulated in managing the affairs of national education. It is particularly important to uncover and take comprehensive account of the positive experience of the best educational collectives and the practice of efficiently combining education with productive labor and of ensuring the harmonious development of the rising generation.

All the activity of soviets takes place before the masses' eyes and is based on the initiative and creativity of the millions. It is therefore especially important to be tirelessly concerned with improving the style and methods of soviet organs' work. The Central Committee February Plenum drew attention to the need for a clear distinction between the functions of party committees and the tasks of state and economic organs and to eliminate duplication in their work. This practice should be combatted resolutely. Showing greater initiative and independence, conducting a bolder quest for resolving urgent problems more promptly -- this is what the party expects from Soviet workers.

Analyzing the present-day international situation, the candidate deputy stressed that the United States, which is claiming world hegemony, has openly taken an aggressive militarist path, has launched an arms race, particularly in nuclear arms, on an unprecedented scale, and in conjunction with the Israeli aggressors is reducing Lebanon's cities and settlements to ruins. The United States committed a bandit attack on defenseless Grenada and is continuing to occupy it illegally, is waging an undeclared war against Nicaragua, is keeping up its threats against Cuba, and is committing acts of imperialist banditry in many other parts of the world. The United States wants to destroy people's power and to restore its henchmen -- hated dictators -- by force of arms. What we have here is an increasingly clear attempt to conduct international affairs from imperial positions and an overt gamble on the "right" of the mailed fist.

The deployment of U.S. missiles in Western Europe has substantially increased the threat of nuclear catastrophe and is a challenge to all mankind.

In this complex international atmosphere the USSR and the socialist community have been repeatedly demonstrating their profound commitment to the ideals of peace and doing everything necessary to rid the world of the nuclear threat. The Soviet Union has proposed a whole package of measures aimed at achieving practical accords on the freezing, limitation, and reduction of nuclear arms based on the principle of equality and identical security and at improving the international situation. Consequently our country's peace-loving, precise, and clear foreign policy proposals have been finding a response and support among all people of good will abroad.

At the present anxious time, the Soviet Union, as a great socialist power, is fully aware of its responsibility to the peoples to preserve and strengthen peace. We support mutually beneficial cooperation with states of all continents and the peaceful solution of all disputes by means of equitable and constructive talks. This is the immutable will of the CPSU and the entire Soviet people.

"Our party's principled position on these questions is clear, pure, and noble and we will steadfastly adhere to it," K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stated at the February plenum.

The election campaign, the candidate deputy went on to note, is creating a powerful upsurge of political and labor activeness among the masses. It is helping to give a new boost to socialist competition for the successful fulfillment and overfulfillment of the economic and social development plans for 1984 and the 5-year plan as a whole. Soviet people see the unconditional striving to ensure the further strengthening of the country's economic and defense might not only as their obligation but also as a lofty patriotic duty.

In conclusion, V.V. Kuznetsov once again thanked the voters for their confidence and the high honor. He wished working people new successes in creative labor for the good of the socialist motherland.

During his stay in Volgograd, V.V. Kuznetsov visited the tractor plant and the Krasnyy Oktyabr Metallurgical Plant where he talked with workers and leaders and inquired about the progress and problems of modernizing the enterprise and about social development questions. A meeting was held at the CPSU obkom with the oblast's party and soviet aktiv.

V.V. Kuznetsov laid flowers at the Eternal Flame in Fallen Fighters Square.

SHEVARDNADZE ADDRESSES TBILISI-LENINSKIY VOTERS

PM221441 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Let Us Fulfill What the Party Has Outlined! -- Meeting of Voters With E.A. Shevardnadze"]

[Text] The meeting between voters of the Tbilisi-Leninskiy Electoral Okrug and Eduard Amvrosyevich Shevardnadze, candidate deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee, which was held 21 February in Tbilisi, demonstrated the unshakable unity of the party and people.

The meeting was opened by R.I. Dzhavakhishvili, first secretary of Tbilisi's Leninskiy Raykom.

A honorary presidium comprised of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo was enthusiastically elected.

The candidate deputy's agent -- R.I. Kemoklidze, lathe operator at the Tbilisi Machine Tool Building Production Association -- described E.A. Shevardnadze's life history and called on voters to unanimously vote for the candidates of the inviolable bloc of Communists and nonparty people on election day.

The meeting was addressed by Z.D. Chivadze, general director of Tbilisi's Elektrovozostroitel Production Association; K.K. Khechoyeva, teacher at the Tbilisi No 69 Secondary School; Doctor of Biological Sciences N.G. Aleksidze, head of the Biochemistry Department of Tbilisi State University; Major General V.Z. Sinitsyn, commander of the air defense forces of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District; and K.K. Elidzharashvili, student at the Tbilisi State Pedagogic Institute of Foreign Languages. They spoke of Soviet people's approval of the domestic and foreign policy of the party and its Leninist Central Committee and described the successes achieved by Georgia's working people in the fraternal family of our country's peoples and the prospects for the republic's economic and social development. It was stressed that the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and extraordinary February plenums were a guide to action for Georgia's working people. The Leninist party's firm and consistent course aimed at further boosting the country's economy, improving the people's well-being, and maintaining peace on earth, is determined by the scale and rhythm of socialist competition to implement the plans of communist creation.

E.A. Shevardnadze, who was warmly greeted by those assembled, delivered a speech. The election campaign, the meetings with voters, and the elections, he said, are a vivid expression of the profound democratism of our system, the advantages of socialist society, and the humanism of real socialism. The period between elections has been characterized by a further increase in the leading role of the CPSU and an extension of the rights and an increase in the prestige of the soviets. The concluding stage of the election campaign is proceeding in an atmosphere of high mobilization and organization on the part of Soviet people, who are successfully implementing the decisions of the 26th party congress, subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, and the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum.

Recently the country bade farewell to Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, the leader of our party and state. As was noted at the February plenum, he made a weighty personal contribution to the Central Committee's collective activity in elaborating the party's comprehensively considered and realistic course at the present stage -- the curse of improving developed socialism. Yu.V. Andropov's death is a grave loss for the Soviet people but it has not disunited our ranks. The multimillion-strong masses of Communists and working people have rallied even more closely around the Leninist Central Committee, which is headed -- by the will of the party and people -- by Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko.

The election of Comrade K.U. Chernenko as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee was warmly welcomed by all Communists and all Soviet people. He is known in the party, among the people, and in the international communist and workers movement as an outstanding politician and major organizer of the Leninist type who has made a considerable contribution to elaborating theoretical and practical problems and further improving developed socialist society. The working masses know him as a man of tremendous personal charm, boundlessly devoted to the Leninist principles of party and state building, able to observe and support new ideas, and implacable toward all phenomena antithetical to socialism.

K.U. Chernenko's prestige as a consistent fighter for peace and cooperation between peoples is high.

Our republic warmly recalls Comrade K.U. Chernenko's visit to Georgia in October 1982 and his meetings and conversations with members of the Central Committee Bureau, the aktiv of the Georgian Communist Party, workers of Tbilisi's Dimitrov Aviation Plant, other labor collectives, and representatives of our capital's intelligentsia and young people. Konstantin Ustinovich's advice, wishes, and instructions have formed the basis of many achievements in the republic.

Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko had a big role in the elaboration and adoption of the well known CPSU Central Committee resolutions on the Georgian party organization in recent years. Some of them were adopted on his initiative. For this reason the special gratitude, recognition, respect, and love that he enjoys among Georgia's working people, are perfectly natural.

Our election meeting, the speaker continued, is taking place in an atmosphere with Georgia's working people have been awarded for the 11th straight year the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee Challenge Red Banner for high indicators in the all-union socialist competition in the 3d year of the 5-year plan.

After the CPSU Central Committee's adoption in 1972 of the resolution on the Tbilisi Gorkom's organizational and political work, all the Georgian Communist Party's activity was aimed at radically improving leadership of the economy. The chief result of the development of the national economy during this period was a sharp increase in the republic's economic and industrial potential and a narrowing of the gap between its economic and social development level and the average union level on the basis of the dynamic and proportional growth of physical production sectors and the services sphere.

In 10 years the volume of the republic's gross social product increased 94 percent and the volume of national income produced increased almost 97 percent. Georgia's share in the country's economic potential rose considerably.

The course of building up this potential has ensured a further increase in the population's well-being. The average monthly wage of workers and employees has increased 40 percent in the last 10 years and real per capita income has increased 54 percent.

Despite this, we are still lagging considerably behind the average level reached in the country for this important social indicator. To overcome this lag it is necessary to continue to maintain the high pace of development of industrial and agricultural production.

In the last 5 years between elections the positive trends which have emerged in our economy have intensified increasingly. Suffice it to say that capital investments amount to more than R9 billion. This is 35 percent more than in the previous 5 years.

The republic's industry has not merely coped successfully with the fulfillment of last year's targets, but has also scaled the heights marked out for the first 3 years of the 11th 5-Year Plan as a whole. Considerable improvements have occurred in raising the technical and economic standard and quality of output. Since the start of the 5-year plan there has been an increase in the proportion of output in the highest quality category, which accounted for more than 50 percent of the overall volume of output subject to certification last year.

Considerable successes have been achieved in the agrarian sector of the economy. The average annual output of agricultural products has increased almost 20 percent in comparison with the last 5-year plan: procurement of tea has increased 39 percent; fruits, 54 percent; citrus fruits, almost 73 percent; livestock and poultry, 16 percent; milk and dairy products, 19 percent; and eggs, 51 percent. There have also been important successes in the development of other sectors of the national economy.

The achievements in the development of the economy have created a firm foundation for the improvement of the people's material well-being and the flourishing of their spiritual culture. In the last 5 years the republic has managed to increase the production of goods for the people by 44 percent.

Going on to dwell on the successes of the Georgian capital's working people, the candidate deputy noted that the volume of industrial production has increased 40 percent in comparison with 1978. Now around one-third of the republic's gross social product is produced in Tbilisi. The city is a great construction site. In the last 5 years alone 2.8 million square meters of housing have been commissioned, which has made it possible to improve housing conditions for every sixth city resident.

Following our party's Leninist traditions, however, E.A. Shevardnadze went on, even in days of celebration we focus our attention on unresolved problems. We are also oriented in this direction by the CPSU Central Committee Extraordinary February Plenum and Comrade K.U. Chernenko's plenum speech. The urgent problems include the unjustified downward revision of plans, the nonfulfillment of plan targets by many enterprises and organizations in terms of labor productivity growth, variety of output, and production and sales of goods, breaches of contractual obligations, and others.

The strictest economy, rational utilization of material resources and equipment, disclosure of additional reserves, acceleration of economic growth, and, on this basis further increase in the republic's contribution to the country's economic might -- this is our task!

We must comprehensively improve the organizational and political work of party organizations and the activity of soviets, trade unions, the Komsomol, ministries, departments, and economic organs and enhance the personal responsibility of Communists in order to successfully implement the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums.

The speaker devoted much attention to the Georgian economy's development prospects. He noted that the republic's main national economic task is still to increase its contribution to all-union achievements. This can be attained on the basis of building up industrial potential, improving the sectorial structure, comprehensively intensifying social production, stepping up the employment of labor resources, and improving the utilization of natural assets and the territorial distribution of production forces with a view to accelerating the scientific and technical progress.

The buildup of the republic's industrial potential will result mainly from the preferential development of sectors that determine scientific and technical progress: electrical engineering, instrument buildings, the chemical industry, and others. The sectors producing consumer goods will develop at a rapid rate.

Big tasks are facing agriculture. Their solution will ensure that the population's growing needs are met as regards livestock products, vegetables, potatoes, and fruit in accordance with scientifically substantiated nutrition norms. Production of leaf tea must increase considerably. The sectors that determine the republic's specialization in the all-union division of labor -- citrus fruit growing, viticulture, fruit growing, and others -- will develop at faster rates.

A comprehensive program for social and cultural construction has been elaborated and is being implemented.

In his speech at the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum Comrade K.U. Chernenko stressed the importance of the creative approach to resolving the problems of economic and cultural building. The experiments and quests widely conducted in the republic over the last few years in all spheres of economy, culture, and management testify to Georgian party organizations' creative and scientifically substantiated approach to the current problems of communist building. Under the leadership of the CPSU Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo, the Georgian SSR has become a testing ground for economic experiments whose significance extends far beyond the Republic's borders.

A major experiment -- the elaboration of a new management structure for agriculture -- which began 10 years ago on a regional scale with the Abasha Experiment, which is now well known all over the country and has been approved by the CPSU Central Committee, is almost completed. The reorganization of the Republic Ministry of Agriculture on the basis of the transformation of a number of ministries and departments into the state committee for agricultural production was the logical conclusion of the establishment of a new management structure for agriculture taking into account and creatively analyzing this experience.

Important experiments are in progress in all spheres of the national economy. The growth of the Republic's economic, scientific, and technical potential has made it possible to give more attention to the protection of the environment and historical and cultural monuments, to ecological problems, and to the conduct of experiments in this sphere. Almost R365 million has been spent over the last 10 years on environmental protection and the rational utilization of natural resources. A big program of environmental protection measures is planned for the long-term period.

E.A. Shevardnadze dwelt on the questions of the party organization's work with the scientific and creative intelligentsia and the successes in the spheres of science, literature, and the arts, which are increasingly becoming important ideological means of cultivating the communist awareness of the masses.

Today, he said, our meeting is taking place in the building of Tbilisi's newest theater, in Gldani, the theater of the capital's new workers' rayon, whose creative collective has already won the audience's affection and popularity. This is symbolic. The capital is growing, and a new theater has emerged with the emergence of the new rayon. This indicates the increased spiritual needs of our contemporaries. Concern for the people's spiritual assets will remain one of the party's main concerns.

The speaker devoted much attention to the problems of strengthening socialist discipline, law and order, organization, the struggle against antisocial phenomena and violations of socialist legality, and the further improvement of the moral and psychological climate in labor collectives.

Everything in Tbilisi and throughout the republic must be exemplary -- discipline, order, and the sphere of consumer and public services: This is the requirement of the day. We have everything we need to achieve this: the material and technical base, the cadres, and the necessary backing from the working people.

"To display greater independence of action at all levels, to boldly seek, and, if necessary, to take justified risks for the sake of raising the economy's efficiency and enhancing the people's prosperity" -- this is the task set by Comrade K.U. Chernenko.

The CPSU Central Committee recently adopted a resolution "On the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee's Work To Improve the System of Management, Raise the Standard of Economic Work, and Make Rational Use of Resources." This resolution determined to a large extent the labor enthusiasm and the elated feelings of the masses in these preelection days and lays firm foundations for future victories.

The party is consistently following a course of deepening democracy and expanding the rights of citizens, labor collectives, local soviets, and regional and autonomous bodies. The well known constitutional principle -- the Republic's sovereignty -- is a vivid expression of the party's concern for the rights of each nation and ethnic group, but in our society rights and obligations are dialectically interlinked. This is why the expansion of rights and the broadening of autonomy of action are seen by us as an expression of trust, which requires us to be more responsible for the state of affairs in the economy and culture throughout the country.

Every one of us, the candidate stressed, must consider it his supreme international and patriotic duty to devote all his strength, experience, and knowledge to the cause of the motherland's flourishing, the cause of strengthening the unbreakable USSR. We see this as our supreme civic duty, our happiness, our life's goal!

The speaker devoted much attention to an analysis of the international situation, the problems of the foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, and the struggle to safeguard peace.

The Georgian SSR, he noted, just like any Soviet republic, is, both in spirit and in population structure, a Republic of internationalists and patriots. Our internationalism and patriotism take the form of specific and actual deeds. All of the Republic's nations and ethnic groups are represented in the Georgian SSR, Abkhaz ASSR, and Adzhar ASSR Supreme Soviets, the South Osetian Oblast Soviet, and local soviets. This fact alone shows how the nationalities question is resolved in our country and how the people's rights and freedoms are assured.

A deputy is an integral part of his people, and he must devote all his energy, abilities, experience, and knowledge to the cause of the party, the cause of the great Lenin, the immortal cause of the triumph of communist ideals, E.A. Shevardnadze said in conclusion. Expressing heartfelt thanks to the voters for choosing him as their candidate for USSR Supreme Soviet deputy, he voiced his confidence that Soviet Georgia's working people, monolithically rallied like never before around the Leninist Central Committee and its Politburo headed by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, will unanimously vote for the worthy representatives of the people. They know that by voting for the candidates of the unbreakable bloc of Communists and nonparty people they are voting for the flourishing of the country's economy and culture, for raising the Soviet people's prosperity, for peace and democracy, for the victory of communism.

DEMICHEV SPEAKS AT LYUBERTSKIY ELECTORAL MEETING

PM221506 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Feb 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Serving the People's Interests: P.N. Demichev's Meeting With Voters"]

[Text] Soviet people, fulfilling the 26th CPSU Congress decisions, have achieved new successes in economic and cultural building. Our society's ideological and political unity has been strengthened still further and socialist people's power has been further developed. This was noted at a meeting on 20 February between voters of the Lyubertskiy Electoral Okrug in Moscow Oblast and Petr Nilovich Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR culture minister.

The meeting was opened by K.D. Kalimanov, first secretary of Lyubertsy Gorkom.

An honorary presidium comprised of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo was elected enthusiastically.

After calling on the voters to vote unanimously on election day for the indestructible bloc of communists and nonparty people, L.A. Petrov, director of Tomilino Semiconductor Instrument Plant and the candidate deputy's agent, described P.N. Demichev's career.

Speeches were then delivered by A.Ye. Palagin, secretary of the Lytkarino Optical Glass Plant party committee; Hero of Socialist Labor L.N. Mironova, milking machine operator at the Petrovskoye State Stud Farm; Yu.A. Novikov, chairman of the Lyubertsy Gorispolkom; Hero of Socialist Labor A.I. Makartseva, milling machine operator of Lyubertsy's Ukhtomskiy Agricultural Machine Building Plant; Vadim Denisov, student at the Gagarin No 10 State Vocational and Technical College; A.I. Timchenko, director of the State Institute of Mining and Chemical Raw Materials, and others.

The speakers declared their unanimous support and fervent approval of the Extraordinary CPSU Central Committee February Plenum's decision to elect Comrade K.U. Chernenko as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Communists and all the Soviet people, the meeting stressed, are uniting their ranks increasingly closely around the party's Leninist Central Committee and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

A speech was delivered by P.N. Demichev who was warmly greeted by those present. After expressing heartfelt gratitude to the working people of Lyuberetskiy Rayon who had nominated him as candidate deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the speaker stated that he regards the confidence placed in him primarily as a manifestation of the voters' unanimous support for the domestic and foreign policy of the CPSU and its Leninist Central Committee.

The country and the whole Soviet people have experienced days of grief, the candidate deputy said. The life of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, an outstanding figure of the Leninist party and Soviet state and a loyal Marxist-Leninist, has ended abruptly. The address of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers to the Communist Party and the Soviet people expressed the feelings and thoughts of all Communists and all Soviet people.

The recent CPSU Central Committee Plenum unanimously elected Comrade K.U. Chernenko, an outstanding figure of our Leninist party and the Soviet state, to be general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Possessing vast experience of party and state work, the qualities of an outstanding leader, and boundless devotion to Marxist-Leninist principles and communist ideals, Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko devotes all his effort and ability to implementing our party's Leninist course.

Rating highly Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's activity in the supreme party and Soviet state posts, K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed in his plenum speech the continuity of the party's political course. While relying on what has been achieved, developing everything positive, and not standing still, continuity means the need to go forward, to focus attention on the unresolved tasks and crucial problems of the present and the future, and to unite the masses under the guidance of Leninist principles.

It is now important to attach stability to the positive trends in socioeconomic development. For this it is necessary to comprehensively develop the masses' creative initiative, to raise the level of conscious discipline, organization, and order in all areas of work, to consult the masses, to check one's actions against the working class' ideas, and to consistently implement the principles of social justice in everyday matters.

We are faced with the responsible task of further intensifying social production, accelerating the introduction of scientific and technical achievements, improving the entire economic mechanism, and increasing national economic efficiency. The successful resolution of this task depends on cadres' creative initiative, on persistent work to implement the CPSU Central Committee's resolutions on topical questions of economic development, and on every worker's creative and responsible attitude to matters.

While creating the new world we must at the same time mold the man of the new society. Increasing the efficiency of all ideological and educational work is one of the key tasks of building a communist society.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko has stressed the need to further improve the work of party and state organs, to strengthen the party's ties with the masses, to evaluate what has been achieved soberly and realistically, and to enrich our ideological arsenal with new experience of socialist building.

The election platform -- the CPSU Central Committee's appeal to all voters and citizens of the USSR -- set out the Soviet achievements since the last elections, P.N. Demichev said, and clearly defined the main tasks and avenues of the country's socioeconomic and cultural progress and its foreign policy. We are justifiably proud of socialism's historic achievements. These achievements can be clearly seen and experienced by every Soviet person in all spheres of social life. Socialism's fundamental advantages over capitalism are now becoming increasingly evident.

The USSR is now playing a leading role in the world economy. It is the world's largest producer of over 30 very important types of industrial output. But the national economy has considerable reserves for further improving economic development. By no means all enterprises are working at peak efficiency and plans and pledges are not always fulfilled. Slack work even by individual enterprises and associations and the short supply of particular types of output, under the conditions of our planned economy and the interlinking and interdependence of certain areas of production and national economic sectors, can and often does cause substantial harm to social production as a whole.

The speaker noted that the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the Komsomol Central Committee have awarded Moscow Oblast the Challenge Red Banner for its 1983 all-union socialist competition results.

P.N. Demichev went on to analyze the achievements of working people in Lyuberetskiy Rayon. He noted that in the first 3 years of the 5-year plan the industrial production volume has increased by 9.8 percent here, labor productivity growth targets have been overfulfilled, and output worth R43 million above the plan has been sold. About 50 percent of the output subject to certification is being produced with the state seal of quality. In implementing the Food Program, agricultural workers have done considerable work to intensify all agricultural sectors. Consequently the average annual production of agricultural output has increased by 28 percent in the current 5-year plan compared with the previous plan.

At the same time the speaker drew attention to omissions and unutilized reserves in the work of some collectives where production volumes are unjustifiably reduced and the level of labor productivity is allowed to fall. Bring all reserves into operation -- that is our task.

P.N. Demichev stressed that 1984 will be an important landmark in the cause of increasing the efficiency of all social production and of intensifying its social directions. While consolidating and developing everything positive that we have achieved, we are capable not only of fulfilling but also of overfulfilling the targets for the 4th year of the 5-year plan. Every effort must be made to ensure that the set target of achieving an above-plan increase of 1 percent in labor productivity and a reduction of 0.5 percent in prime cost of output is successfully fulfilled.

The law on labor collectives and team forms of labor organization and incentives must be used to develop the masses' creative initiative to the utmost and to instill order and discipline in every area of work.

The candidate deputy went on to say that our successes in all areas of work are now being determined increasingly by the standard of people's professional and political culture. The need to establish a sense of high responsibility for the common cause and of socialist consciousness is becoming increasingly urgent as the socioeconomic, political, and cultural tasks that our society is resolving become more complex and as the increasingly broad masses are involved in historic creation.

The principles of the democratic administration of all spheres, including the production sphere, and permeating Soviet society's life increasingly broadly and deeply.

The development of socialist democracy, Soviet people's active participation in managing society's affairs and developing production, and in the work of soviets and trade unions, and participation in the activity of mass social organizations and in the country's spiritual and cultural life also mold man's high social self-awareness and, at the same time, demand systematic work by everyone to raise the ideological-political level and communist consciousness. It may be said without exaggeration, the speaker stressed, that the improvement of mass political and ideological-educational work is also linked now to the successful resolution of the key tasks of Soviet society's economic and social progress.

The CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum set the task of raising all ideological, educational, and propaganda work to the level of those great and complex problems being resolved by the party and the people in the process of improving developed socialism.

Comrade K.U. Chernenko's report at the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum stressed that Soviet society has entered the historically lengthy stage of developed socialism; its comprehensive improvement is our strategic task.

The need for unity of word and deed, the need to develop in every working person -- from the leader to the rank-and-file worker -- a sense of personal responsibility for the resolution of the common tasks and a new type of socioeconomic thinking; the all-around development of the masses' creative initiative and conscious discipline -- these demands of the CPSU Central Committee's June Plenum have become decisive in all ideological work.

The tasks of improving developed socialism and accelerating the rate of scientific and technical progress naturally dictate the need for a corresponding restructuring of the education and training of the rising generations, so as to to enable them to successfully resolve the complex problems which face society today and will face it as it approaches the 21st century.

The draft "Basic Guidelines for the Reform of General Educational and Vocational Schools" elaborated by the CPSU Central Committee and submitted for nationwide discussion set the aim of bringing all the schools' work up to a qualitatively new standard to meet the conditions and requirements of the society of developed socialism.

The June plenum set crucial new tasks for cultural workers. The speaker described the achievements of Soviet art, which in recent years has been enriched with many outstanding works which have won the recognition of the whole people. At the same time increasingly high demands are now made on its ideological and educational functions. It is necessary for the subject matter, content, and artistic standard of art to be up to the present-day level of social development, up to the tasks being resolved by our party and all the Soviet people.

The speaker stressed that a characteristic feature of the spiritual life of the society of developed socialism is the requirement for people to have active, mass access to high culture. Culture must be an effective factor in developing the standard of labor, a sound moral climate in labor collectives, and political culture; it must offer real ideological and aesthetic scope for every person, according to his inclinations and interests, to make productive use of his free time.

Overcoming the negative phenomena in daily life and in people's behavior that we sometimes encounter today is inseparably associated with improving people's way of life and changing harmful habits which have sometimes taken root. The more successfully we develop a positive tenor of life in general, which is attractive to people and which breaks and neutralizes harmful habits and customs, the more effective the struggle against drunkenness, empty time-wasting, and hooliganism. Here a considerable role belongs to the sphere of culture.

The further improvement of mass cultural work contains great reserves for the struggle against various kinds of negative phenomena, the speaker noted. It is called upon to actively promote the resolution of the social and economic tasks set by the party, scientific and technical progress, the strengthening of social discipline, and the formation of a conscientious attitude toward labor and respect for Soviet laws, the rules of socialist communal living, and the norms of communist morality. Mass cultural work cannot stand aside from the problems of rational consumption and living standards. In other words, mass cultural work is now called upon to make an increasingly marked, increasingly weighty contribution to the formation of the civilized socialist society.

In the years that have elapsed since the last elections, according to preliminary data, our country has commissioned about 3,000 club institutions, of which more than 1,300 are in rural localities; about 3,000 libraries; 75 museums; 37 professional theaters; and 193 musical collectives.

In the development of mass cultural work great significance is now attached not only to quantity, but to quality and to the formation of a system of cultural services for the population which meets people's increased spiritual needs and long-term requirements.

Considerable work has been done in this direction. For instance, in club matters, centralized systems are being set up -- cultural, sociocultural, and culture and sports complexes. This makes it possible to raise the standard of cultural services and make more differentiated provision for the population's professional, age group, and other features.

The task now is to develop high spiritual requirements in the entire population, to give the broad mass access to cultural assets, and this means careful planning of cultural building and the even distribution of cultural institutions across the country.

The candidate deputy dwelt on topical questions of the international situation. He noted that the situation, which has been considerably exacerbated through the fault of American imperialism, requires of every Soviet person a high level of consciousness and discipline, and conscientious labor in all sectors of socialist building. Our strength lies in Soviet society's ideological and political unity, in the indestructible friendship of all the USSR's peoples, and in the unity of the party and people.

In his speech at the February plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade K.U. Chernenko said: "As a great socialist power, the Soviet Union is fully aware of its responsibility to the peoples for preserving and strengthening peace. We are open to peaceful, mutually advantageous cooperation with states on all continents. We are in favor of the peaceful resolution of all contentious international problems through serious, equal, constructive talks. The USSR will fully collaborate with all states that are prepared to take practical actions to help lessen international tension and create an atmosphere of trust in the world."

Soviet people can look to the future with confidence, P.N. Demichev said in conclusion. Under the leadership of their tried and tested vanguard, the Leninist party, they are following the only true socialist path, guided by the only true teaching, the great Marxist-Leninist teaching, and upholding the sacred cause of peace and cooperation between peoples.

There is no doubt that the USSR Supreme Soviet elections will demonstrate the monolithic cohesion of all the Soviet people around the CPSU and their unshakable determination to follow the communist path.

P.N. Demichev visited the Tomilino Semiconductor Instruments Plant, a publishing production combine of the All-Union Institute of Scientific and Technical Information, and the V.I. Lenin Kolkhoz. During meetings and talks, workers, rural workers, leaders, and specialists expressed unanimous support for the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee's extraordinary February Plenum. The candidate deputy inquired about prospects for developing production and about the working and living conditions of the workers at the enterprises and the kolkhoz members. Ways of further accelerating the growth of labor productivity and the introduction of the achievements of science and technology into production were also discussed, as were topical problems of cultural building and ideological education work.

LENINGRAD OBKOM'S ZAYKOV REVIEWS PROGRESS

PM211306 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jan 84 pp 1-3

[Unattributed report on speech delivered by Leningrad Obkom First Secretary L.N. Zaykov at 20 January oblast party conference in Tavricheskiy palace, Leningrad: "To Implement Leninist Party's Plans! From the Report by L.N. Zaykov"]

[Text] Comrade delegates!

Our conference, marking the conclusion of the report and election campaign in the Leningrad party organization, is being held at an important stage of the party's and the people's purposeful work to implement the 26th CPSU Congress decisions.

During the period that has passed, the land of the soviets has noticeably advanced in all directions of economic and cultural building. A wide range of measures has been implemented to raise the Soviet people's living standards. The Soviet state's defense might has been consolidated.

The Soviet Union, together with the other socialist community countries, is doing everything to avert the threat of a nuclear catastrophe and to preserve peace for the present and future generations. The Leningraders and all our people undividedly approve the consistent and peace-loving course followed by Lenin's party!

The CPSU Central Committee November (1982) Plenum, having confirmed the continuity of the political course elaborated by the 26th CPSU Congress, oriented the party and all working people toward the solution of key problems which determined the rates of socialist development at the modern stage.

This line has been convincingly confirmed and developed in the documents of the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum and the CPSU Central Committee resolutions. The work launched by the party to enhance responsibility, exactingness, and businesslike efficiency and to strengthen organization and discipline has met with the unanimous support of Communists and working people in our city and oblast, just as it has throughout the country.

The consistent implementation of the entire range of interconnected economic, organizational, ideological, and educational measures has given the national economy great dynamism and has ensured the improvement of qualitative indicators.

The Communists and all Leningraders, together with the party and the whole people, welcomed with profound satisfaction the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum and the tasks set by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The plenum unanimously approved and supported the profound evaluations and conclusions concerning the basic directions of the national economy's further development contained in Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's speech, having emphasized that they must underlie the activity by the entire party and by all Soviet and economic organs, public organizations, and labor collectives and that they must become the most important duty of every Communist.

The USSR and RSFSR Supreme Soviet sessions that have taken place confirmed the state plan and budget of the country and the republic for this year, which envisage the further development and increased efficiency of social production and the growth of the people's prosperity, and provide everything necessary to maintain the country's defense capability at the necessary level.

The main stress has been laid on the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, the modernization and retooling of enterprises, their specialization in the production of output with high standards and qualities, ensuring the fuller utilization of existing capacities, and the thrifty and rational use of fuel, energy, raw, and other materials.

Now that the plan has become the law of economic life for all sectors and for each enterprise and that, to use Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's words, the labor rhythm of the work by shops, sections, and teams is to be measured against it, the task along party lines can be formulated only thus: We must ensure the unconditional fulfillment of the plan and, in addition, make use of all opportunities to overfulfill it. This goal must be pursued by our entire political and economic activity, the socialist competition, and the economic, organizational, ideological, and educational work by party, trade union, and Komsomol organs and the local soviets.

The specific ways and means to implement the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum decisions are being discussed at party gorkom and raykom plenums, at party meetings, and in the process of the work connected with the preparation for the USSR Supreme Soviet elections.

The Communists and working people in Leningrad and oblast, just as all Soviet people, approve the results of the CPSU Central Committee plenum and the truly Leninist style that is typical of the multifaceted and fruitful activity of the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo headed by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov.

Comrades!

The party obkom is accounting for the period since January 1981. The years since the previous conference, just as before, are distinguished by intense work by the Leningrad party organization to fulfill the plans for comprehensive economic and social development.

Resolving the task set by the 26th party congress, the working people in Leningrad's industry achieved faster labor productivity growth rates by comparison with the rates of growth of output volume.

The 1983 targets and the targets of the 5-year plan's first 3 years for the volume of industrial output have been successfully achieved.

The annual output of consumer goods now exceeds R10 billion.

Deliveries of equipment to projects scheduled for commissioning in the energy sphere have been completed on schedule.

It was the period during which the country received the 250,000th Kirovets tractor. The new nuclear-powered icebreaker "Rossiya" was launched and dozens of other ships were handed over.

We have developed over 700 and started up in production over 5,000 modern types of machines, instruments, materials, and consumer items. Among them are an 800-megawatt turbogenerator with a complete water-cooling system and a cryogenic generator; the Angara-5 thermonuclear fusion installation; a unique set of equipment with a 1.5 million-kilowatt capacity for the Ignalina AES; a reversible turbine for a pumped water storage station; the GTN-25 gas-pumping assemblies; new high-precision program-controlled machine tools; installations for the laser and plasma processing of metals; a robot-operated technological complex for arc welding; and much else.

The proportion of output awarded the highest grade of quality is steadily growing. Today over 36 percent of certifiable products carry the State Seal of Quality.

Technical standards have risen in all sectors of the economy. Some 835 shops and sections have been comprehensively mechanized and automated and about 1,000 flow lines and automatic lines, together with hundreds of new progressive manufacturing processes, have been introduced. Conditions for the automation of production on a principally new organizational and technical basis have been created. About 400 automated systems for the control of production and of manufacturing processes are being developed or are already operational at enterprises and in organizations, systems for the automation of design and drafting work and research are being successfully introduced, and the first flexible automated production facilities have been created.

The efficiency of fundamental and pure [poiskovyy] research and of applied scientific developments has increased, and they are having a greater effect on the technical standards and quality of items produced, reducing labor-intensiveness and increasing labor productivity.

Substantial changes have occurred in our economy's agricultural sector. Major projects like the USSR 60th Anniversary Poultry Breeding Combine in Sinyavino, the first stage of the Sputnik Hog Breeding Combine, the Volna complex, the mixed feed plant in Volosovo, and many others have joined the ranks of operational capacities. Production specialization and concentration have deepened. A large volume of work has been done on comprehensive mechanization, the sector's transfer to an industrial basis, and land reclamation. This has made it possible to fulfill ahead of schedule the targets for the sale of all kinds of products to the state not only for 1983 but for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan as a whole.

Much has been done to augment and renew fixed assets in all sectors of the national economy. Over R10 billion have been disbursed for this purpose. Some 350 major production capacities and projects have been commissioned, most of them ahead of schedule. They include the third stage of Svetogorsk's paper and pulp combine, new shops in the "Izhorskiy Zavod," "Kirovskiy Zavod," "Znamya Truda," "Nevskiy Zavod" named for V.I. Lenin, and "Leningradskiy Metallicheskiy Zavod" Associations, and others.

The fourth power unit at Leningrad's V.I. Lenin AES has become operational ahead of schedule. Thus the showpiece of our native nuclear energy generation has reached its full design capacity.

The freight turnover of the Leningrad transportation center has increased 14 percent. Over 2 million metric tons of freight have been handled in excees of the plan.

The housing problem is being consistently resolved. Housing with a total area in excess of 7 million square meters has been handed over in Leningrad City and Oblast, thus making it possible to improve housing conditions for more than 550,000 Leningraders.

In accordance with the recommendations of the 25th Leningrad Oblast CPSU Organization Conference, since July 1982 we have been implementing a rota system for improving the housing conditions of citizens possessing a housing area of less than 5.5 square meters per person; the preference criteria for the provision of housing to war and labor invalids and the families of workers in basic professions living in communal housing have been expanded.

We have commissioned 62 general educational schools and vocational and technical colleges, 145 children's preschool institutions, hospitals with 3,500 beds, and polyclinics for 12,000 patients per shift.

More than 155,000 telephones have been installed, and about 35,000 of them have gone to veterans of the Great Patriotic War.

All types of city transport have been further developed. New sections of the underground railway have been commissioned, bringing its total length to 73 km. Better transportation services have been provided for new housing developments like Rzhevka-Porokhovyye, Shuvalovo-Ozerki, Neva's Right Bank, and Komendantskiy Airport. The Ladozhskiy and Kantemirovskiy bridges are operational. The Morskoy railroad station has been commissioned.

Analyzing the results of our work during the period under review, we are fully justified in saying: These are the results of the Leningraders' selfless labor. This is the logical result of the higher levels of organizational and political work done by the party gorkoms and raykoms, the primary party organizations, the economic organs, the soviets of people's deputies, the trade unions and the Komsomol.

The achievements of working people in Leningrad City and Oblast have been repeatedly noted by the party Central Committee. Over 40 enterprises and organizations and tens of thousands of workers specialists, scientists, and cultural workers have been awarded orders and medals, 43 persons have been deemed worthy of the title Hero of the Socialist Labor, and dozens of Leningraders have won Lenin and state prizes.

Allow me, on behalf of the party obkom to cordially congratulate the recipients and to thank all the frontrankers for their selfless labor.

Comrades!

The experience of our organizational and political work during the period under review shows that Leningrad's economy has quite a few reserves. We have spoken about them when discussing the information report by the party obkom, at plenums and aktiv meetings, and at the report and election conferences and meetings in rayons and party organizations. Hence today we must evidently single out only the pivotal questions stemming from the tasks set by the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum, on whose solution we have to work during the 11th and 12th 5-Year Plans.

Despite the utmost importance of other problems, the most urgent one is to accelerate scientific and technical progress. Much is being done in our country to create the conditions necessary for fruitful work by the scientific institutions. Leningrad's scientists have made a well known contribution to the development of our native science and technology. And yet, the scientific research institutes and the design, planning, and technological organizations could be more active in helping resolve topical national economic tasks. Better use can also be made of the creative potential of scientific workers in VUZes. Until now there have been quite a few designs and products that have failed to meet modern requirements. The proportion of manual and auxiliary operations is falling only slowly in a number of industrial sectors, and especially in municipal services.

Last October's party obkom plenum mapped out specific ways to raise labor productivity and the technical standards of products in the light of the requirements posed by the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Measures to Accelerate Scientific and Technical Progress in the National Economy." The existing scientific and technical potential, the experience accumulated in improving the organization of production and management, and the better training of cadres create objective prerequisites for the successful development and comprehensive introduction of design and control systems using computers and of flexible automated production facilities so as to achieve, in the final analysis, the transition to complexes based upon the principles of unmanned technology.

A key role in this has to be played by the further development of fundamental research and developments in the sphere of developing modern machines and technologies capable of ensuring a manifold increase in labor productivity, high output quality, and savings in material resources.

Unflagging attention must be given to this work by the sectorial sections of Leningrad Obkom and Gorkom and by the party gorkoms and raykoms, insofar as it involves dozens of associations and enterprises from all the basic sectors -- industry and the agro-industrial sector, construction and transportation, and municipal services. Great responsibility lies with the USSR Academy of Sciences Leningrad Scientific Center, the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences Department for the RSFSR's Nonchernozem Zone, and the "Lenelektronmash," "Lensistemotekhnika," and "Vympel" Associations. A more active role must be played by the economic and social development councils under the party obkom, gorkoms, and raykoms.

The party obkom believes that, given the conditions of acute shortage of manpower resources, this approach to the solution of the problems of scientific and technical progress will make it possible to release a considerable part of the work force and ensure the unconditional fulfillment of plans for the remaining 2 years of the 5-year plan as a whole. At the same time it will make it possible to create a good reserve for significantly raising the technical standard of Leningrad's economy in the next 5-year plan period. This, comrades, is our paramount task.

Matters must be organized so that the development of plans for economic and social development begins everywhere with a chapter on technological progress. This must be the sole basis for us to plan the volumes of output and capital construction, and other indicators.

We have accumulated experience in this direction -- and this experience is not bad -- and at all levels, at that both in the enterprises and in the raykoms. This approach is typical of Kirovskiy, Moskovskiy, Vasileostrovskiy, and Smolinskiy Rayons, the Sosnovyy Bor Gorkom, the party committees at the V.I. Lenin Optical Instruments Association, the "Svetlana" Association, the A.A. Zhdanov shipbuilding plant, the printing machines plant, and several others.

As yet, however, the chapter on technological progress appears to stand almost in isolation in our plans as a whole, by they 5-year annual plans. The result of this is that equipment frequently operates below full capacity, the planned labor-intensiveness is not achieved, and the norms for raw material and energy consumption are breached. This situation must be corrected, and it must be corrected immediately.

As the availability of technical facilities in production increases, the tasks of increasing the efficiency with which fixed capital is utilized become still more topical. The large production potential created in the last few years in many enterprises of chemical industry, machine building, and other sectors is not being fully utilized. This is primarily due to the slow assimilation of capacities.

You know, comrades, how urgently questions connected with improving equipment's shift index were raised at the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum. The Leningrad party organization has done much to solve this problem. Recently, however, this important index has not only failed to improve but has actually fallen in enterprises in Nevskiy, Krasnoselskiy, Petrogradskiy, and several other rayons. Furthermore, despite the acute shortage of machine operators, the proportion of wornout equipment is not falling and new equipment, contrary to all logic, frequently lies around in stores and becomes obsolescent.

We must elaborate and introduce in the very near future a system of certifying and recording work positions in each enterprise and determining their consonance with scientific labor organization. This will make it possible to evaluate more objectively collectives' work in utilizing existing production capacities and to orient them toward introducing machines and processes that ensure an increase in capacities while reducing the size of the work force and help provide a more intensive workload for equipment and reduce production expenditures.

The reconstruction and modernization of the existing production potential must be the main direction in the economy's development. This is confirmed especially by the experience of the V.I. Lenin "Nevskiy Zavod" Association, where production capacities have increased 1.3 times within a short time thanks to reconstruction and the manufacture of highly efficient gas pumping units for the Urengoy-Pomary-Uzhgorod long-distance gas pipeline has been organized. Furthermore, the volume of capital investment was halved by comparison with new construction.

Reliance on reconstruction means reliance on labor productivity growth and higher profitability of production. The party committees and the economic leaders of enterprises and organizations must base their work on this. The CPSU gorkoms and raykoms must step up their monitoring of the formulation of technical modernization plans and must hold leaders and workers in the appropriate services strictly responsible for their fulfillment.

One of the factors determining the growth of production efficiency and a most important condition for the feasibility of our plans -- together with steady growth in labor productivity -- is the policy of thrift. Life itself orients us toward a thrifty attitude towards fuel, metals, and other resources.

There are quite a few labor collectives that make thrifty use of raw and other materials. A great role in this has been played by the dissemination of the "Elektrosila" Association collective's initiative on securing the entire increase in production without increasing rolled metal consumption, the experience of Volkhov's aluminum plant in utilizing secondary resources, and the elaboration and implementation of the "energy" and "metal" targeted programs.

Pikalevo's "Glinozem" Association has reduced the expenditure of raw material per metric ton of output to 3-5 percent below the previously existing norms thanks to the introduction of an automated plan computations system and to constant attention to the improvement of manufacturing procedures. Last year alone this enabled it to produce additionally over 900,000 metric tons of cement. Meanwhile labor productivity has increased 2.9 percent and the planned output prime cost has fallen 1.5 percent.

Nevertheless, many types of resources are still poorly utilized in our oblast as a whole. Analyzing the work of the USSR Gossnab's Leningrad Main Territorial Administration and the state of affairs in enterprises, the party obkom bureau brought to light serious shortcomings in work on norm-setting and the recording and storage of resources. A large quantity of above-normative and unutilized commodity and material stocks can be found in the warhouses, while the neglect of normative procedures paves the way forwaste and various abuses.

On the party obkom's instructions, the creation of a territorial system for the management of material resources is currently approaching completion. The USSR Gossnab's Leningrad Main Territorial Administration and party organizations must ensure that it is comprehensively introduced as early as this year, look more deeply into the work of commercial services, and resolutely combat economic mismanagement. Each collective must determine ways, means, and methods to achieve the savings of all types of resources embodied in this year's plan.

A thrifty attitude toward resources and the ability to make savings in large and small matters comprise one of the basic criteria of competent economic management. This criterion must be our guideline in evaluating the activity of economic leaders and the level of exactingness of party committees.

As Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov has stressed, the selection of most efficient directions for the development of the national economy and of the main links which made it possible to rapidly advance the country's economy along the intensive path is one of the urgent tasks in improving planning and management.

The Leningrad party organization has to its credit persistent work to concentrate and specialize production and improve management on the basis of establishing production associations and science-and-production associations. In industry alone 170 such associations have been set up. The leading associations have developed advanced management structures, and the processes of centralizing similar production processes, technological specialization, and introduction of financial autonomy are actively progressing. This ensures fast rates of development for technical progress and has a positive effect on the results of economic activity.

However, a number of collectives make poor use of the great potential of advanced forms of production organization and management. There is duplication in the work of different services and a lack of centralization of service subdivisions and technological specialization. In consequence, the proportion of administrative and management personnel is large, there is no precision in the division of personnel's functions and responsibilities, and there is insufficient order in planning.

The party gorkoms and raykoms and the sectorial sections of the Leningrad CPSU Obkom and Gorkom must switch from making recommendations and expressing wishes and to taking strictly to task leaders who disregard leading experience and tolerate formalism in the creation of associations. I believe that you will support this view, comrades!

As you know, the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have adopted a special resolution on further improving the planning of the comprehensive development of Moscow and Leningrad that considerably expands the rights of local soviets of people's deputies. The task that has been set is to raise the actual content of planning to a qualitatively new level.

The Leningrad Gorispolkom Planning Commission, jointly with the Leningrad Oblispolkom Planning Commission, must in the very near future complete the formulation of the draft basic guidelines for the economic and social development of the city and the oblast in the next 20 years, through the year 2005. The new general plan for the development of Leningrad City and Oblast must be developed for the same period, with the participation of architectural planning administrations. It is very important to balance the program for the development of all sectors with the resources of the city and the oblast as an integrated planning project, relying on the experience that has been accumulated and the rights that have been granted.

We have to profoundly and comprehensively consider several economic and social questions and find ways of solving them in the best possible way. In the process it is necessary to enhance the role and responsibility of the Leningrad Gorispolkom Planning Commission and the Leningrad Oblispolkom Planning Commission, and especially of the rayon soviet and party organs, concerning the validity and fulfillment of all plan chapters.

All our work on enhancing discipline, organization, and responsibility must be based upon a plan -- comprehensively substantiated from the technological and economic viewpoints for which people can and must be taken to task with all strictness. This is the beginning of order.

Within the system of measures to strengthen plan discipline, great significance attaches to the strict observance of contractual obligations for product deliveries. There are still quite a few industrial enterprises that fail to fully discharge their obligations for deliveries at the prescribed time, of the specified range, and of the proper quality. This disrupts the work of many enterprises and inflicts great damage on the economy.

All instances of breaches of contractual obligations must be the object of strict examination by party committees to ensure that both material and technical supply organs and transportation organizations, in other words all links in the management of the national economy instrumental in ensuring the uninterrupted and steady work of enterprises, are held responsible, to the extent of their guilt, for the nonobservance of plan discipline.

The economic experiments being conducted by decision of the CPSU Central Committee are meant to help create additional incentives for increasing the efficiency of social production.

It is well known that five major Leningrad associations are now experimenting with improvement in the remuneration of designers and technological personnel. The results of the first stage are encouraging. All production targets are being met on schedule and to high standards and a considerable number of workers has been released. The prestige of engineering labor is growing.

This, of course, is only a beginning. All enterprises and organizations must start preparing to switch to the principles of this equipment, and many collectives must change over to work under the new conditions as early as this year.

The party obkom is also monitoring progress in another experiment: that to expand the rights and enhance the responsibility of enterprises for the end results of economic activity.

In accordance with the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution, additional measures have been elaborated to improve planning and material and technical supplies, strictly observe contractual obligations, and utilize incentive funds, Several Leningrad VUZes have organized courses for the retraining of leadership cadres participating in the conduct of this experiment. Thus we are creating the necessary organizational and economic conditions that Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov mentioned, whose purpose is to develop businesslike efficiency and initiative and ensure highly productive high quality labor. Party committees must persistently strive to ensure that every participant in the experiments -- from the general director to the worker -- is clearly aware of his responsibility for their results and bears in mind that they will be used in the country's national economy as early as in the 12th 5-Year Plan.

One of the foremost tasks that party soviet, and trade union organizations are called upon to resolve has been and remains the task of increasing the production and improving the quality of consumer goods. Production of many items has increased significantly recently. The level of supplies to the population has also improved noticeably, especially as regards consumer durables. Some R230 million of consumer goods in excess of the plan have been produced since the start of the 5-year plan. Production of them has been R1.57 per R1 of wages. The number of items awarded the State Seal of Quality is growing.

At the same time, some enterprises continue to produce goods that are not in demand and strive to produce larger quantities of expensive items while unjustifiably ceasing the production of basic necessities, which gives rise to many negative phenomena, including speculation. The experience of manufacturing seasonal products is being poorly introduced, and the trade network makes insufficiently active use of seasonal sales of goods.

It is well known that the CPSU Central Committee Politburo deemed it necessary to elaborate as part of the 12th 5-Year Plan and for the longer term a comprehensive program for the development of consumer goods production and the system of services for the population. During the process of drawing up this program, local party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organs must ensure that each collective elaborates specific measures aimed at comprehensively increasing the production, expanding and promptly updating the range and improving the quality of consumer goods.

Describing the situation in agriculture, we would be fully justified in saying that it is steadily improving. This is linked with the implementation of the CPSU Central Committee May (1982) Plenum decisions and the Food Program.

New management organs have been created in rural areas. The economic mechanism is being improved. The principles of financial autonomy and collective contracts are being applied more widely. It is important to note that the last few years have seen a noticeable equalization of the economic potential of the oblast's rayons thanks to the improvement of laggard farms.

Good results have been achieved by sovkhozes in Vsevolozhskiy, Volkhovskiy, Gatchinskiy, Tosnenskiy, and Lomonosovskiy Rayons. Take Volosovskiy Rayon for example, which is one of the largest suppliers of agricultural output. Last year the farmers in Volosovskiy Rayon sold to the state more than 100,000 metric tons of milk. The program for the production of all kinds of output for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan has been fulfilled ahead of schedule.

Now the task of making efficient use of the large capital investments allocated to rural areas and increasing output without increasing the size of the work force is becoming paramount. We must especially emphasize the importance of stepping up work to improve productivity and stability in arable farming. Above all it is necessary to resolutely change the attitude toward newly opened up land, which comprises almost 50 percent of the oblast's total arable area. We cannot tolerate the fact that on many farms the yield from this land remains extremely low for a long time.

The oblast's agricultural administration and the "Lenmelioratsiya" Association must focus their attention primarily on the reconstruction of existing areas and on accelerating the recoupment of production expenses. This must be backed up by concern for good quality seeds and fertilizers and by the introduction of crop rotation and advanced labor organization. Only thus will we be able to reach as early as in the next 2-3 years the level of at least 25 quintals of feed units per standard head of livestock. We must wage a persistent struggle, comrades, to reach this level.

As before, close attention must be given to questions of further intensifying livestock raising, primarily dairy livestock raising. Estimates show that if productivity in dairy stockraising remains, for example, at its current level (3,359 kg), in order to meet the Food Program targets by 1990 we would have to increase livestock numbers by 94,000 standard head, spend more than R450 million on building new livestock raising premises, and recruit over 5,000 extra people to work in the stock units.

This is why we are suggesting a way that may be more complicated but is more efficient and more economical: To strive to reach an average milk yield of 3,500 kg in the oblast by 1986 and reach the 4,000 kg mark by the end of the 12th 5-Year Plan. This will make it possible to resolve the same task while increasing the herd by only 15,000-20,000 head and halving capital investments. It will be necessary to recruit 4,000 fewer additional livestock raising workers.

Furthermore, as well as struggling everywhere to raise the productivity of livestock raising, we must continue to persistently implement our course of reconstructing the existing stock units, comprehensively mechanizing them, and improving consumer and transport services for rural working people. The task can be set right here at our conference: to ensure that by the end of the current 5-year plan we have trained the number of livestock raising workers necessary to introduce a two-shift system in all stock units and complexes.

While solving the questions of agricultural development we must constantly bear in mind the main goal -- to fully satisfy the population's needs for food products. Take vegetable production for example. We largely supply Leningraders with locally grown produce. The "Lenoblplodoovoshchkhoz" Association and the Oblast Agricultural Administration today have at their disposal a good material and technical base and well trained cadres. And yet an orientation toward "gross output" is still predominant in the approach toward the production of this produce. At the height of the season the stores fail to keep the required range of early vegetables, and their presentation and quality are significantly interior to the produce sold in the markets.

The question of storing produce at vegetable bases remains as topical as before. The Oblast Agro-industrial Association Council and the Leningrad Gorispolkom must strive to implement the outlined comprehensive program for the mechanization and automation of fruit and vegetable bases in full and within the set time.

Greater attention must be given to developing the rural shops [subsidiary farms] of industrial enterprises and organizations and the population's personal plots. Nothing must be considered trifling in this important work: whether it is a question of the construction of farmstead-type houses, road building, the supply of seeds or young animals and poultry, or the sale of output. These questions must be resolved without delay.

Now that the organizational and economic measures elaborated by the CPSU Central Committee May Plenum are fully operational, the party gorkoms and raykoms must analyze more deeply the production and financial activity of associations and sovkhozes. According to last year's results, there are no unprofitable farms in the oblast. But this is no reason for complacency, because a number of sovkhozes assured their profitability mainly through higher wholesale prices and state subsidies.

Something else is also clear: We can expect a great economic effect only when there is coordinated work by all links in the agro-industrial complex. In particular, we cannot tolerate a situation where the bulk of harvesting work is left to patron organizations.

The party obkom plenum that discussed questions of scientific and technical progress determined the basic ways of solving the problem. Party committees, soviet and economic organs, and scientific institutions have to implement practical measures to reduce sharply -- by as soon as the end of the current 5-year plan -- the number of city inhabitants recruited for the harvesting by speeding up the rates of mechanization and introduction of industrial techniques.

In short, comrades, the implementation of the Food Program, and this was reaffirmed by the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum, demands from party, soviet, and economic organs a creative approach, total mobilization of forces, and active use of all the reserves at our disposal.

When proceeding to draw up the plan for comprehensive economic and social development in the 12th 5-year period, along with measures to further increase the volume of agricultural output in the traditional zones, we must provide for special measures aimed at the comprehensive development of rayons in the Karelian isthmus and the Lake Ladoga region.

In the process we must constantly bear in mind the problems of environmental protection and the rational utilization of natural resources. In this connection it must be stressed yet again that forests are an enormous asset. They must be exploited skillfully, in a state fashion.

Nevertheless, on the whole the exploitation of forest resources is still unsatisfactory. Much of this is due to the absence of a single forestry administrator.

At present only one organization (the Forest Management Association) deals with the preservation and restoration of forest resources, while others deal only with procurements.

It is time for the oblispolkom to resolve the question of eliminating this lack of departmental coordination, and the "Giprobum" and "Giprolestrans" Institutes must at long last elaborate a system for the procurement, transportation, and processing of timber on the oblast's territory that fully precludes the waste and loss of timber raw material.

Some positive progress has been achieved in capital construction during the period under review. The scale of the commissioning of fixed capital has increased, project construction times have been reduced, and the quality of construction work is improving.

At the same time, we cannot be satisfied with the state of affairs in this sector.

Considerable funds are being earmarked to strengthen the production base of construction organizations, but the proper return is not always obtained.

We have managed to reduce somewhat the number of production projects under construction at the same time, but there is a long way to go to complete order in this respect. This leads to dissipation of capital investments and creates additional difficulty in supplying construction sites with material, technical, and labor resources.

A few words on housing construction. We are doing a great deal of building, and the 11th 5-Year Plan targets for the commissioning of housing will be met. More can be done, however, if greater use for construction is made of the so-called "blank spots" already supplied with mains services and if we prevent an unjustified rise in the cost of housing.

We managed to ensure that all schools and vocational and technical colleges were commissioned by 1 September. The party obkom bureau has set the task of planning to commission all children's preschool institutions also by that date. All livestock raising premises are to be handed over by October, the start of the period when animals are stalled, and storage facilities for agricultural produce are to be handed over in the first half of the year. As yet, however, we are a long way from practically attaining these goals.

We can and must achieve a steady rhythm in the construction of housing and the erection of production projects. We are entitled to demand that our construction workers impose, at long last, some order in this matter. Many construction sites still lack the necessary discipline and responsibility, and absenteeism and stoppages are not declining. Many highly productive machines and mechanisms are used practically for only one shift.

There are, of course, quite a few examples of good work by construction workers. The No 19 bridge building detachment of the "Mostostroy 6" Trust constantly ensures high quality of work and overfulfillment of plan targets via the wide introduction of team contracts, improved planning, and thorough preparation of production work. This experience must be studied and widely introduced in other construction organizations.

The socialist pledges for 1984 envisage carrying out no less than 60 percent of the volume of construction and installation work using the team contract method. But even this is not the limit. It must be clearly understood that team financial autonomy can be widely introduced only given a well organized system of production and technological supply. Much that has been done in this regard in the oblast is positive. It is merely necessary to switch more resolutely to the dissemination of progressive methods everywhere. We cannot have instances where teams are idle and the timetable for project commissioning is not fulfilled because of delays in material and product deliveries, especially now that the plans for construction and installation work are largely balanced against the capacities and material and technical resources.

Many of these problems have to be solved by "Orgtehstroy's" large specialized trusts and by the services for construction automated control systems under the Leningrad Gorispolkom Main Administration for Housing, Civil, and Industrial Construction, the Territorial Main Administration for Construction Work in the RSFSR's Western Regions, the Leningrad Gorispolkom Main Administration for Construction of Engineering Installations, and the Administration for Capital Repairs. Nevertheless, as yet they exert insufficient influence on the fate of construction projects.

The system of construction management must be more persistently improved.

In particular, the Leningrad Gorispolkom must speed up the changeover of its Main Administration for House, Civil, and Industrial Construction to self-contained territorial subdivisions that are fully responsible for construction and for the comprehensive and timely development of residential microrayons.

Similar management systems, taking into account the specific features of each main administration, must be developed for the Territorial Main Administration for Construction Work in the RSFSR's Western Regions, the Leningrad Gorispolkom Main Administration for Construction of Engineering Installations, and also other major construction and installation organizations.

While making high demands on construction workers, we must also raise with all urgency the question of the responsibility of client organizations for improving the efficiency of capital investment utilization. It is to them that the state allots funds and it is they who are primarily responsible for their rational utilization. This is why the timely solution of questions of providing design estimate documentation, of preparatory work for construction, and of the delivery of equipment and materials and the fastest possible assimilation of new capacities comprise the main obligation of every client. And party gorkoms and raykoms must proceed from exactly this standpoint when evaluating the state of affairs in capital construction.

Transportation is an important sector of the economy. During the period under review we continued our persistent work to disseminate and further develop the experience of labor collaboration among Leningrad transportation workers, which has been approved by the CPSU Central Committee.

The volume of freight transported by the October railroad has increased. The Baltic Sea Shipping Line, the Northwest River Shipping Line, and the Leningrad Civil Aviation Administration are steadily meeting their plan targets. Since the start of the 5-year plan, river transport has accounted for over 1 million metric tons of freight, making it possible to release more than 20,000 railroad cars for the national economy.

At the same time, the transportation problem remains as acute as ever. The extent of the development of the material and technical base in railroad and motor vehicle transportation and the efficiency with which it is utilized fail to meet the actual requirements for the transportation of national economic freight and passengers.

We have now started the elaboration of a targeted comprehensive program for the development of the Leningrad transportation junction. It is important to make sure that it envisages the introduction of new technical means and progressive technological solutions making it possible to enhance the standard and efficiency of transportation work.

The rationalization of transportation links is very important. The railroad still frequently carries some freight short distances and motor vehicles carry freight excessively long ones, with both operations in opposite directions. The transportation facilities belonging to enterprises and organizations under different departments are not rationally utilized.

Our planning commissions must carefully analyze the current freight flow situation in the Leningrad transportation junction and formulate optimum plans for the transportation of goods, raw materials, and supplies. Party gorkoms and raykoms and party organizations in transportation enterprises must be more exacting toward economic leaders over the efficient utilization of all types of transportation, and especially over speeding up loading and unloading at enterprises' railroad sidings.

Comrades! As was stressed at the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum, all our efforts in the economy are ultimately aimed at improving the people's living standard. This is the chief sociopolitical aim of the party's plans. We are doing a great deal in this respect.

At the same time, there are problems requiring immediate solution in trade, health care, the services sphere, and municipal services more than in any other spheres.

In recent years the birthrate has increased substantially. Taking account of this, the party obkom bureau recently approved a program for the additional building of children's preschools establishments for 1984-1985. However, as deputies very rightly noted at the recent local soviet sessions, we must actively expand and modernize existing children's establishments as well as building new ones, and thus accelerate the resolution of this problem.

We must constantly improve the work of trade, public catering, and consumer service enterprises. First, it is time to resolutely put an end to the inefficiency of trade organization leaders and the artificially created shortages of goods of which there are sufficient at the depots. We have the right to make serious complaints to the Leningrad Gorispolkom Main Trade Administration, gorispolkoms, and rayispolkoms. They are patently not flexible enough in their work.

The reputation of Leningrad public catering, which was once high and prestigious in the country, has noticeably waned. Slovenliness, rudeness, shortchanging, and unappetizing dishes are, unfortunately, by no means infrequent phenomena in canteens, cafes, and restaurants. And the relevant services of the Public Catering Main Administration have tolerated the shortcomings.

Many complaints are received about the work of the consumer service sphere. The volume and quality of services by no means meet people's requirements. At the moment, the average annual per capita sum spent on paid services in Leningrad is R48, while in the oblast the figure is somewhat lower -- only R30. In the near future we must seek to substantially expand the services sphere and improve the quality of services, including actually at working people's workplaces -- at enterprises and organizations.

In short, comrades, party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and soviet and economic organs must approach all questions linked with people's living conditions with the same responsibility and exactingness with which they approach the fulfillment of the most important national economic tasks. Party gorkoms and raykoms and the Leningrad CPSU Obkom and Gorkom branch sections must display more exactingness.

In concluding this section of the report, I would like to stress once again that all the questions that we have been discussing can only be resolved by strengthening discipline and organization, tightening up monitoring of the fulfillment of adopted decisions, improving the responsibility of every worker for the work entrusted to him, and actively struggling against everything that obstructs our progress.

As always, success will be determined by people and their professional competence, ideological conviction, and attitude to matters. For this reason the training, selection, placement and education of cadres has been and continues to be an object of unremitting concern for the party obkom.

It is only natural that at the first party obkom plenum following the 26th CPSU Congress and then in all links of the oblast party organization the question of improving cadres' responsibility for the work entrusted to them was discussed. In the period that has elapsed many crucial sectors have been reinforced with politically mature, skilled, and enterprising workers, capable organizers and educators of collectives.

As is known, the CPSU Central Committee highly appraised the activity of the Leningrad party organization in training and educating worthy reinforcements for the working class. Today almost 120,000 students are studying in the 211 vocational and technical schools in the city and oblast, obtaining certificates of maturity as well as work qualifications.

In accordance with the demands of scientific and technical progress a number of establishments have organized training in maintenance of flexible automated production facilities, robots, and machine tools with digital program control. Certain steps have been taken to switch to the sectorial principle in the training of specialists. At the same time, the plan for the admission for training of workers in the construction trades, machine operators, and skilled milking machine operators, of which the economy of Leningrad City and Oblast are in particularly dire need, has not been fulfilled. This is the direct result of deficient work by the Main Administration of Vocational and Technical Education, base enterprises, and planning commissions.

In the last 3 years over 200,000 skilled specialists have been trained by the city's VUZes and technical schools. However, the discussion at the CPSU obkom bureau of the work of the Oktyabrskiy Raykom in educating student youth and an analysis of the work of a number of VUZes and technical schools shows that a substantial restructuring of specialties and study programs in the light of the achievements of scientific and technical progress is required. Many graduates have no knowledge of the modern achievements of science and technology. The city's council of rectors and their party committees must step up the work to admit young Leningraders to VUZes on sovkhoz, agro-industrial association, and industrial enterprise sponsorship.

In connection with the planned reform of the general educational and technical schools we must carefully prepare right now for the changeover to the new system of work. Especially as we are coming up against a shortage of teacher cadres, and with the changeover to schooling children from the age of 6 this problem will be still further aggravated. For this reason urgent measures must be taken to expand the admission of Leningrad school graduates to study at the A.I. Gertsen Teachers Institute. Obviously, it is expedient to have yet another teachers college in the oblast. And the working conditions in the Oblast Institute for Teacher Improvement must also be improved.

As is known, the fashioning of the new man has been and continues to be one of the chief elements of communist building. The CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum, which outlined a long-term program for improving the party's ideological work, clearly pointed to ways of resolving this cardinal task. The present report and election campaign has shown graphically how our rate of progress increases if people understand the party's policy better and accept it with their hearts and minds.

In the reporting period the party obkom, gorkoms, and raykoms did much work to improve working people's Marxist-Leninist education. In accordance with the CPSU Central Committee guidelines, the structure of party studies was reviewed. The qualitative makeup of propaganda workers was improved. The effectiveness of oral political agitation increased and it became more businesslike and assertive.

At the same time life urgently requires an improvement in the methodological training of propaganda workers and their level of knowledge about the problems of their own rayon and their own enterprises. It is no secret that the chief shortcoming is still the inability to link theoretical knowledge with collectives' daily affairs.

I would like to stress that training is intended to educate people and help them achieve the best results in work. For this reason the effectiveness and specific nature of political and economic education must continue to be an object of profound and exacting analysis on the part of party committees.

Integrated political days have proved their worth. They provide an opportunity to familiarize working people more fully with the work of party and soviet organs and economic leaders and to study people's mood and pressing concerns better. However, we still make by no means full use of the educative force of this kind of measure. Experience shows that a leader who ducks controversial issues merely wastes his own and other people's time. What is needed today is frank discussion about what really worries working people and prevents them from working at full capacity.

Party, war, and labor veterans play a tremendous role in shaping and tempering the individual. Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's words at the meeting of the CPSU Central Committee are imbued with great and sincere warmth and concern for the combat detachment of Communists of the older generation.

The CPSU Obkom Council of Party Veterans for the Propaganda of Revolutionary Combat, and Labor Traditions and the Education of Working and Young People, which is headed by Hero of Socialist Labor Vasiliy Petrovich Vinogradov, has actively gotten down to work. These councils operate today in all party gorkoms and raykoms.

Allow me to cordially thank the dear veterans for their great contribution to the education of patriots of our great socialist motherland and to wish them new successes in their noble work and good health!

The CPSU obkom is constantly guided by the conclusions of the party Central Committee that in ideological work it is necessary to take every account of the nature of the contemporary international situation. This is especially important now that imperialist propaganda has mounted an unprecedently malicious campaign of lies and slander against the socialist world.

In these conditions we need a well considered and integrated system of counterpropaganda that is dynamic and effective. A considerable amount is being done here, but the intensifying subversive actions of our ideological enemy require a constant increase in political vigilance. An important task of party organizations and of every Communist is to struggle consistently against ideological subversion by the class enemy and resolutely and promptly suppress the various rumors, pieces of gossip, and malevolent fabrications that the Western propaganda centers plant.

As before, party organizations continued painstaking work for the communist education of young people during the reporting period. However, it must frankly be admitted that there are many unsolved problems and shortcomings in work with the rising generation.

This work must be carried out subtly, on a strictly individual basis, and throughout the whole chain of family, kindergarten, educational establishment, and labor collective. The responsibility of Communist parents for children's education must be sharply increased, as proposed by the delegates of many city and rayon report and election conferences.

The party considers the inculcation in every person of a conscious need to work for the common good to be a very important task. It is well known what a tested and reliable means of boosting the masses' labor and political activeness socialist competition is. For many years now the movement under the slogan "From high quality in each person's work to high efficiency in the collective's work!" has helped Leningraders achieve high results in the economy.

In this 5-year plan the initiative, approved by the party obkom, of the collectives of the A.A. Zhdanov Shipbuilding Plant and the I.I. Polzunov Central Boiler and Turbine Institute Science and Production Associations to secure the entire increase in the volumes of production and scientific research without increasing the number of personnel has been broadly disseminated. By joining in the competition to implement comprehensive plans for improving labor productivity at every workplace and to strengthen discipline and organization, more than 100,000 workers completed the program for the 1st 3.5-4 years of the 5-year plan ahead of schedule.

The preparations for celebrating dates that are dear to the hearts of every Leningrader -- the 6-th anniversary of the renaming of Petrograd Leningrad and the 40th anniversary of the city's complete liberation from the enemy blockade -- have been marked by a selfless struggle to fulfill and overfulfill the intensive plans and high socialist pledges of 1983. These festivals will provide new impetus for increasing the masses' labor and political activeness.

It is well known, comrades, that the fate of the outlined plans depends on how well they are understood and supported by the masses. The party Central Committee constantly draws our attention to ensuring that competition is aimed not at intermediate secondary indicators, but at accelerating labor productivity growth, increasing output quality, and improving the utilization of material and labor resources.

The CPSU Central Committee December Plenum set party and trade union organizations and labor collectives a specific task -- to achieve an increase in labor productivity of at least 1 percent over and above the plan and an additional reduction in output prime cost of at least 0.5 percent. This, as Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov stressed, must be seen as an extra party target for the plan.

Today more than 100 enterprises, including the Leningrad Electromechanical Plant Association, the I.Ye. Yegorov Freight Car Building Plant, the Sestroetsk Voskov Elektrik Instrument Plant, and others, have already adopted pledges guaranteeing that these targets will be not merely achieved but even surpassed. Party gorkoms and raykoms must seek to disseminate this valuable initiative in the collectives of all sectors of the national economy. Special thrift accounts must be opened everywhere for enterprises, construction sites, and sovkhozes, and those who achieve the best results must be encouraged more actively.

The introduction of collective forms of labor organization has a great educative effect. Suffice it to say that workers who are united in the teams commit 1.5-2 times fewer violations of labor discipline and public order. I would like to add the proviso that I am referring to progressive and correctly organized collectives where an atmosphere of comradeship, mutual exactingness, and high responsibility on the part of each person for his own work has been created. Party committees and economic leaders must firmly grasp the fact that a campaign approach is more harmful in the introduction of collective forms of labor organization than in any other sphere. This is an instance where, as they say, it is necessary to measure seven times and cut once.

In contemporary conditions the party persistently demands an intensification of measures to strengthen labor discipline and law and order. And here, comrades, we have something to work on. Of course, it is good that overall losses of worktime were substantially reduced last year. But we must not close our eyes to the fact that antisocial phenomena such as drunkenness, hooliganism, and abuses of official position are still quite widespread. This is evidence that the demands of the party Central Committee for a resolute and uncompromising fight against crime are being fulfilled only slowly by the militia, the prosecutor's office, and the courts. The volunteer people's militia and Komsomol operational detachments are not active enough.

Work with the population at their place of residence needs substantial improvement. The decisions taken on these questions last year by sessions of the oblispolkom and gorispolkom are not being completely fulfilled. In this respect it is very important to further boost mass participation in physical culture, sport, and tourism. The city and oblast sport committees, the DOSAAF, and Komsomol organizations, as well as further increasing the skill of Leningrad sportsmen, must pay very close attention to improving the population's health and primarily to fashioning in young people strength of mind, endurance, and great readiness to defend the motherland.

The role of cultural institutions in the communist education of working people is great. Many works of Leningrad theaters and movie studios have been creative successes in recent years. The works of our city's writers and masters of the fine arts reflect a broad range of topical contemporary problems. The achievements of a number of leading cultural institutions in Leningrad and of a large group of master artists have been marked by high awards of the motherland.

However, works that are ideologically and professionally weak still appear in the theater, the movies, and journals. A pointed and principled discussion of this topic was held at the party obkom bureau, which discussed the work of literary and artistic journals and also the activity of the Dzerzhinskiy party raykom to lead literary and artistic institutions. The main cultural administration must increase responsibility for the quality and ideological thrust of the repertoire and make more active use of the potential of literary and art criticism in implementing a party approach to appraising the work of master artists.

The city's cultural figures must view as a social imperative the task of creating on the stage, in movies, in the fine arts, and particularly in literature the image of a hero who possesses the best features of our contemporary man. We also expect vivid and emotional coverage of the heroic-patriotic theme. This is the party duty and civic obligation of every writer, artist, musician, and theater and movie worker.

The further development of culture today requires that greater attention be paid to strengthening the material and technical base of creative organizations.

In the reporting period, especially after the CPSU Central Committee June Plenum, the newspapers LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, LENINGRADSKIY RABOCHIY, and VECHERNIY LENINGRAD, and the committee for television and radio broadcasting started to analyze more deeply the key problems of the economy and the economic activity of labor collectives.

Editorial collectives are faced with the task of increasing the effectiveness of their articles. Strict monitoring of every published critical item must be instituted. Party gorkoms and raykoms must seek to ensure that immediate responses are given to such items.

Ideological workers, the creative intelligentsia, the press, television, and radio have always and in every way been loyal helpers of the party in resolving the tasks of economic, social, and cultural building. Whether people work with elated good spirits, seeking the best results, depends largely on them.

Comrades!

For the oblast CPSU organization, and indeed for the whole party, the period under review has been characterized by a further increase in the party's leading role in economic and cultural building. The style, forms, and methods of work have improved, internal party democracy has consistently developed, and links with the masses have expanded and deepened.

In the past years the party obkom plenums have examined topical tasks in raising the standard of party leadership and the main problems of economic and social development and ideological and party organizational activity in the light of the decisions of the 26th party congress and CPSU Central Committee plenums. CPSU obkom Bureau and Secretariat sessions have been held regularly to discuss the reports of party gorkoms and raykoms, primary organizations, and economic leaders and the chief questions of increasing production efficiency and developing sectors of the national economy, the services sphere, culture, and people's everyday life and leisure.

The questions examined and decisions adopted in the party obkom have been regularly reported in the press, on television, and on radio. This has been approved by Leningraders.

In the period since the congress increased attention has been paid to admitting young Communists into the CPSU and educating them. The oblast party organization increased by more than 27,000 people and currently has over 580,000 party members and candidate members. Almost two-thirds of Communists work in the sphere of material production. Today we have more than 6,700 primary party organizations, over 11,000 shop party organizations, and 23,000 party groups.

The CPSU obkom has endeavored to invigorate the work of all grassroots party links as much as possible. Most party organizations -- and this has been reaffirmed by the report and election campaign -- fulfill the role of political nucleus of the labor collectives with a sense of high responsibility, assess the state of affairs in a principled fashion, and approach the selection and placement of cadres in an exacting manner.

However, when examining the reports of party committees at the party obkom we often encounter serious shortcomings in the style and methods of their work, omissions in enterprises' production activity and in labor organization and management, and instances of the flagrant violation of the principles of socialist economic activity and the norms of party ethics. It is not just primary organizations and their elected organs, but also to an equal extent party gorkoms and raykoms which bear the responsibility for this.

We have accumulated rich experience of leading primary organizations and increasing their prestige and influence in labor collectives. You only have to mention the creation of party organizations in associations, science and production complexes, and production units, enlarged party committees, and secretaries' councils, the conducting of reports and interviews with cadres, and the system of training and retraining cadres and schooling young Communists and the aktiv, a system which is operating efficiently on the whole. Relying on this experience, party gorkoms and raykoms must be more resolute in switching the focus of organizational and political work directly to primary organizations and labor collectives.

In the reporting period the party obkom paid considerable attention to implementing the CPSU Central Committee resolution "On Further Improving Monitoring and Verification of Execution in the Light of the Decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress." The questions submitted for discussion by party committees began to be studied more deeply and the number of newly adopted decisions was substantially reduced. A system of briefing Communists on the results of the fulfillment of resolutions, criticisms, and proposals was established. The work of the commissions for monitoring the administration's activity became more effective. The statute on them approved by the CPSU Central Committee helped to raise this work to a higher level.

The people's organs improved their activity in the reporting period. Thanks to their timely intervention, great reserves for improving production efficiency were brought into play at many enterprises. It is important to continue to seek to step up monitoring and verification of execution. Special attention must be paid to the work of departmental control organs, which in many sectors are not coping with their duties.

The party commissions under the obkom and the CPSU gorkoms and raykoms display great principledness and intolerance of deviations from the demands of the CPSU Rules. Their effectiveness, especially in questions of strengthening party discipline and increasing cadres' responsibility for the absolute fulfillment of party decisions must continue to be enhanced.

The party obkom has recently done a great deal to improve work with working people's letters. The most important thing is for all citizens' proposals, requests, and complaints to be examined attentively and objectively and to be resolved on the spot, where people live and work, by the leaders and organizations directly responsible for dealing with the appropriate questions.

In its daily activity the party obkom always relies on local soviets, the trade unions, and the Komsomol. However, assessing what has been achieved from the standpoint of the increased demands, it is necessary to continue to increase their role and responsibility for resolving the tasks of economic and social development, educating people, and creating the necessary conditions for everyday life and leisure. And also to seek to clearly differentiate the functions of party, soviet, trade union, and economic organs.

Comrades!

The party Central Committee December (1983) Plenum stressed with new force that in conditions of the international situation which has been aggravated through the fault of aggressive imperialist circles, the strict realization of established plans is not merely an obligation, but also the patriotic duty of every Communist and every Soviet person.

Fully supporting the principled line of our party and state, which was expounded with the utmost clarity and cogency in Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's statements, and the additional measures aimed at curbing the arms race, Leningraders -- together with the whole country -- are increasing the intensity of their work and stepping up the pace of the struggle for the absolute fulfillment of the pledges adopted for 1984 and the 5-year plan as a whole.

Allow me, dear comrades, to assure the CPSU Central Committee and the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov that the Communists and working people of Leningrad and its oblast, true to the cause of Great October, will do everything to further strengthen the motherland's economic and defense might and make a worthy contribution to fulfilling the creative program outlined by the 26th congress of our Leninist party!

BIRTH CENTENNIAL OF M.A. SAVELYEV COMMEMORATED

PM211143 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Feb 84 First Edition p 6

[Article by Candidate of Historical Sciences A. Solopov and Candidate of Philosophical Sciences Ye. Chernenko: "Proven Leninist. On the Centennial of the Birth of M.A. Savelyev"]

[Excerpts] Maksimilian Aleksandrovich Savelyev (1884-1939) was born in Nizhniy Novgorod. Under the influence of the class battles taking place in the city, he started participating in the revolutionary movement from his early youth.

Following the victory of the revolution, Savelyev took part in the work of the Higher Economic Conference, the establishment of the Higher National Economic Council, and the quest for ways for the speediest restoration and development of industry in the

Ural-Kuznetsk basin. At the same time he remained a member of PRAVDA's editorial board and did much to ensure that the newspaper honorably played its role as collective propagandist and agitator and organizer of the masses in the struggle to implement party policy. V.I. Lenin highly valued M.A. Savelyev's role on the newspaper, as proved by the following Note: "Comrade Maks! You certainly cannot abandon PRAVDA, since without you things there threaten to fall to pieces. Better sacrifice the Economic Conference temporarily or devote less time to it, but I ask you certainly not to abandon PRVADA. Yours, Lenin."

The October Revolution roused the people's masses in Russia's ethnic regions and opened the way to a new life for them. The party sent its best cadres there. Savelyev was among them. Almost throughout 1920, in his capacity as secretary of the Turkestan Kraykom, chairman of the Economic Council, and deputy chairman of the Turkestan Central Executive Committee, he helped organize party, soviet, and economic work in the kray.

Maksimilian Aleksandrovich made a significant contribution to the development of the social sciences. In 1921-1931 he was deputy chief of the History of the Communist Party Department under the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) Central Committee and editor of the journal PROLETARSKAYA REVOLYUTSIYA. From 1928 he was director of the V.I. Lenin Institute and from 1936 until the day of his death he was deputy director of the Marx-Engels-Lenin Institute. When M.A. Savelyev was elected a full member of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1932, it was noted that "M.A. Savelyev's main work over the last few years has been his active participation in the scientific publication of V.I. Lenin's works...He is not only a proven Leninist, but also one of the outstanding Lenin scholars."

The publication of the second and third editions of V.I. Lenin's Collected Works played a large role in the study and propaganda of the great revolutionary teaching, in the party's struggle against the Trotskiyists and the other anti-Leninist groups, and in the implementation of its general line. Maksimilian Aleksandrovich made a weighty contribution to the elaboration of questions of the theory and practice of the scientific publication of Lenin's heritage: substantiating the authorship of Lenin's documents, dating them, providing methods for textual analysis, and so on. This work, started by the V.I. Lenin Institute, has been continued in our time by the CPSU Central Committee Institute of Marxism-Leninism in the process of preparing the Complete Collected works of V.I. Lenin and his Biographical Chronicle.

Savelyev was the leader and a direct participant in the preparation of the 9th-32d Lenin anthologies, containing more than 3,000 documents from V.I. Lenin's pen, mainly newly discovered works, orders, extracts from books and newspapers, and so forth. They throw vivid light on Lenin's working methods and his creative approach.

Maksimilian Aleksandrovich belonged to the generation of Soviet social scientists who stood at the sources of party history science. His works "The Emergence of Bolshevism. The 2d Party Congress," "PRAVDA's 15-Year Road," and many others are a model of bolshevik principledness, implacability toward ideological enemies, and skill in applying Marxist methodology to the analysis of past and present events.

Along with his scientific, journalistic, and publishing activity, M.A. Savelyev played an active part in party and public work. He was a delegate to the 8th, 9th, and 15th-17th party congresses. At the 16th congress he was elected candidate member of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolshevik) Central Committee.

M.A. Savelyev -- one of the representatives of the great guard schooled by Lenin -- remained to the end of his days a loyal son of the party and the people and a passionate propagandist of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism.

IMPORTANCE OF WORK DISCIPLINE STRESSED

PM221520 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 84 Morning Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Discipline and Organization"]

[Text] The inhabitants themselves reported a notable local event in an outlying residential region: Instead of the traditional announcement "Gone to the base" at the vegetable stand there appeared a piece of paper reading: "Gone to the base from 1400 through 1530." How surprised the customers were when they saw the saleswomen at her workplace at precisely 1530...

Do not consider this incident a trivial one, reader. A trend can be reflected in an isolated, unique incident. And if the lofty demands for the execution of official duties by every person at his workplace have reached a vegetable stand in an outlying district, then that says a lot. Yes, our campaign for discipline and organization has become universal, truly nationwide. This has borne fruit. We have begun to produce more goods of better quality, and soviet institutions, the trading network, consumer services, and, of course, plants and factories have begun to work more precisely -- our conuntry's working class is the first to set an example.

However, we do not delude ourselves: Only the first steps have been taken. In some places people have mentioned discipline and then forgotten it, while other collectives have set about introducing order and then their ardor has cooled. Yet maintaining order in business and forming a sense of responsibility for the fulfillment of one's duties are not a short-term campaign.

At the extraordinary plenum K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of our party's Central Committee, said: "The question of organization and order is a key, principled one for us. There can be no two opinions on that score. Any disorderliness and irresponsibility result not only in material costs to society. They cause grave social and moral damage. We Communists understand this well and millions of soviet people understand it. And it is perfectly natural that the measures taken by the party to enhance labor, production, plan, and state discipline and to strengthen socialist legality have met with truly nationwide approval."

It is no accident that the struggle for order and discipline has been put on a par with the consolidation of socialist legality. After all, legality is understood not only as making someone answerable. It is also the very foundation of the work of every enterprise and institution. The legal norm is the cornerstone of the activity of any collective and of every official. Any organization has its own status, its rules of internal routine; every official has his own precisely defined range of duties. Observing precisely what is laid down -- that is the first and main condition for orders. Here it must be borne in mind that official duties are not good intentions, they are what a person receives wages for, they are the law of official and production life.

Just like the plan. We are very fond of saying that "the plan is law." But as that is so, any violation of plan discipline is a violation of the law. It is in this way and this way alone that we must view such instances, or else there is no point in talking of words complying with deeds. Unfortunately, we are sometimes too easygoing in our attitude toward the amendment of plans, the thwarting of deliveries, and nonfulfillment of one's duties. There is no way we can tolerate this situation if we are to embark in earnest on the introduction of order.

Incidentally, we frequently confuse the concepts of "order in affairs" and "bureaucratism." If a worker fulfills precisely what he has to do and punctiliously follows the letter of the documents defining the range of his activity, then he is doing what we call "a precison job" and he is no bureaucrat. He is an honest, conscientious worker. Yet do we not sometimes pin a hurtful label on him? Such a worker is of far greater benefit than one who heedlessly embarks on anything without weighing up his potential, who is noisy and garrulous, but does not see a matter through.

The struggle for order, discipline, and organization affects everyone and encompasses all spheres of business and social life and the consumer aspect of our life. Whatever question -- social, production, or moral-political -- is discussed, you cannot do without a serious analysis of the state of discipline. That is why at soviet sessions, ispolkom and standing commission meetings, during deputies' reports to voters, at party and trade union meetings, and at production conferences in labor collectives virtually every agenda needs to include talk of our alertness and organization.

Party aktiv meetings on the materials of the CPSU Central Committee February Plenum are now beginning. There is no doubt that these forums keenly will raise questions of the consolidation of labor, plan, production, and state discipline. The continuity in party policy discussed at the plenum will have its effect here. Subsequently reinforced by organizational efforts and district control, this party line will undoubtedly be implemented.

A special and very important role here belongs to the soviets of people's deputies. Of course, they must primarily be concerned for order "in their own house." And this "house" is very spacious and densely inhabited. Precision and order in the work of the soviet itself, its ispolkom, its reception room, and all its sections and administration go without saying, but are not accomplished automatically. The prompt solution of the questions which arise -- and there are thousands of them -- attentive work with all citizens' appeals, and order in office work must be kept constantly in sight by the leaders of soviets.

But that is not enough. The trading network, the network of municipal and consumer service enterprises, the housing stock and all its services are under the soviet's direct management. A CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution was adopted very recently envisaging the expansion of consumer services' economic independence. In the past year much has been done -- working hours convenient to the population have been instituted and a struggle against "under the counter" trading has been announced. But what are the realities behind all this? Have things really become convenient for people? The people's deputies, the deputies' territorial groups, and the soviets' standing commissions have every opportunity for exercising control over whether matters are seen through and whether measures are carried out for the sake of a report and then forgotten.

Even this is not yet enough if we are speaking of the role of the soviets. As the fully empowered organ of power on its territory the soviet is responsible for order at any enterprise or institution, no matter whom it is subordinated to. Without interfering in production activity, the soviet has the right and duty to make demands for the organization of the reception of citizens and the examination of their complaints and the procedure for allocating housing and to demand that departmental kindergartens and other social and consumer service and cultural establishments whose construction is envisaged by the plan are commissioned promptly and to a high standard of quality...

Preparations for the USSR Supreme Soviet elections have now entered their concluding stage. At meetings with voters the candidate deputies are speaking of what they have done, of what has not been resolved, and of our plans for the future. These plans are truly imposing. They concern increasing production, raising labor productivity, introducing new equipment, and much else. To fulfill what has been projected a whole package of measures is of course needed. But one of the first places in this package belongs to our alertness, efficiency, and organization. Without that, without creating an intolerable atmosphere for idlers and loafers, we will not be able to fulfill our plans.

Soviet people are optimists. But they are aware of the full gravity of the present international situation, which has been sharply aggravated through the aggressive actions of the U.S. Administration. Under these conditions discipline and a responsible approach toward one's duties become not only a professional duty but also a very important patriotic one.

Sometimes you can hear peple say: Demands for the observance of discipline, the fulfillment of all instructions, and adherence to order -- does all this not hamper creative ardor, bursts of enthusiasm, and labor initiative? It does not? Neither the laws of nature nor juridical laws, nor the strictest demands for order and organization have yet prevented anyone from making discoveries and setting records, or overfulfilling norms. On the contrary, order in affairs is the most reliable basis for the boldest achievements.

ORWELL'S '1984' HIT AS SLANDER ON SOVIET SOCIETY

WA271236 [Editorial report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian publishes on 15 January page 5 and 16 January page 5 a 2-part 3000-word Melor Sturua article entitled "1984 and '1984.'" Sturua attacks George Orwell as a "lying prophet" and a "renegade to socialism, who turned from a fellow-traveler of progress into a scout of reaction. He planned his novel as a socio-political Utopia and a caricature of our way of life, modeled on a Laborite Britain 'reborn' as 'communist.'" In fact, Sturua argues, Orwell's fictional society does not reflect "the ideals of socialism but the every-day life of capitalism." He goes on to list several specific predictions in Orwell's novel to which he sees counterparts in the modern-day United States: government surveillance of citizens, crime, political corruption, class distinctions and the militarization of the economy.

TURKMEN SSR 1983 PLAN RESULTS PUBLISHED

GF211925 Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 2 Feb 84 pp 1, 2

[Turkmen SSR Central Statistical Administration report on the fulfillment of the Turkmen SSR socioeconomic development plan for 1983]

[Excerpts] Verifying the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress, the workers of Turkmenistan achieved in 1983 further progress in the national economy, improved economic qualitative indicators, and accelerated the rates of the republic's economic development. The well-being of the population continued.

The basic results of the republic's economic and social development in 1983 are characteristized by the following breakdown:

	1983 in percentages of 1982
Derived national income	103.6
Industrial production -- overall, of which:	103.0
Production of means of production	102.3
Production of consumption items	106.0
Agricultural production	103.0
Freight turnover of all kinds of transport	105.7
Commissioning of fixed funds (at the expense of state capital investments in the republic)	117
Capital investments (at the expense of the state capital investments in the republic)	109
Number of workers and employees	102.7
Labor productivity:	
in industry	101.3
in agriculture (public production)	104.5
in construction	101.7
Profit from national economy	112.9
Real income per capita	102.8
Wages fund for national economy	103.5
Average daily wages for workers and employees	100.8
Labor pay for kolkhozes in public economy	102.6
Payments and terms of the population from the public consumption funds:	
overall	104.9
per capita	102.5
Retail trade turnover of the state and cooperative trade	105.6
Volume of domestic services to the population	108.3
Commissioning of the overall area of housing	109

The derived national income increased by over 100 million rubles and totaled about 3.4 billion rubles in comparable prices. Industrial production in comparison with that of 1982 increased by 104 million rubles and totaled 3.086 billion rubles in wholesale prices of the enterprises in 1 January 1982.

Agricultural production totaled 1.339 billion rubles and its annual growth was 41.3 million rubles. Fixed funds at the expense of the state capital investments in the republic were commissioned at a value of 925 million rubles, which is 132 million rubles more than in 1982.

The average annual number of workers and employees in the national economy increased by 21,000 and totaled 776,000 persons. The number of kolkhozers working in the public kolkhoz economy was 303,300 persons.

I. Scientific and Technical Progress:

In 1983, achievements of science and technology were introduced in all sectors of the national economy. Last year, 39 mechanized and automatic assembly lines were installed in industrial enterprises and 8 sections and workshops were converted to comprehensive mechanization and automation. In the national economy about 10,000 inventions and rationalizing suggestions with an economic effect of over 120 million rubles were introduced. The number of scientific workers was over 5,000 persons. In industry measures for the mechanization and automation of production and for the improvement of the technical level and quality of the discharged products were implemented.

II. Industry:

The annual plan for production was overfulfilled at 104 percent. The plan was fulfilled by all the oblasts and ministries except the Turkmen SSR Local Industry Ministry. The overall volume of industrial production in comparison with that of 1982 increased by 3 percent. Its absolute growth was 1.5 times greater than the average during the first 2 years of the current 5-year plan period.

The data for the individual sectors of the industrial production are shown below:

	Production output in 1983 in percentages of 1982
Electrical power	104
Fuel industry	102
Chemical and petrochemical industry	100.4
Machine construction and metal processing	105
Forestry and wood processing industry	108
Construction materials industry	108
Glass industry	121
Light industry, of which:	102
Cotton cleaning industry	102
Food industry, of which:	105
Meat industry	104
Production of goods of cultural, living, and economic significance	111

Machine construction and metal construction, construction materials industry, and food industry achieved higher rates than the other industries. Growth of consumption items production of the group B type was achieved ahead of the scheduled plan.

Labor productivity increased by 1.3 percent. The plan for this indicator was fulfilled by all ministries, except the Turkmen SSR Light Industry Ministry. In the industry as a whole and in the majority of ministries and departments, the growth in labor productivity surpassed the increase in average wages. The correlation between these indicators was in line with calculations for the annual plan. More progress was made by the brigades working as single units and which are paid according to the final results. For example, they received one-third of the wages made by all workers in brigades. The tasks for reducing production costs and increasing profit were fulfilled. As a result of cost reduction, an amount of 17.6 million rubles was saved. The technical and economic indicators of production and quality of products improved.

The fulfillment of the plan in terms of volume of output and growth rates of production and labor productivity by the ministries is characterized by the following breakdown:

	Percentage of fulfillment of annual plan for output volume	1983 in percentages of 1982 output volume	labor productivity
Turkmen SSR Main Administration for Energy and Electrification	101	104	102
Lenin Prize Laureat Turkmen Oil Production Union	103	95	94
Turkmen SSR All-Union Gas Industry Union	101	100.2	100.2
Turkmen SSR Construction Materials Industry Ministry	102	110	111
Turkmen SSR Light Industry Ministry	100.4	103	99.9
Turkmen SSR Cotton Cleaning Industry Ministry	110	103	104
Turkmen SSR Food Industry Ministry	101	112	111
Turkmen SSR Meat and Dairy Industry Ministry	102	105	103
Turkmen Production Union for Fishery Industry	106	74	75
Internal Reservoirs Administration for Fish Industry of the Turkmen SSR Council of Ministers	106	105	94
Turkmen SSR Procurement Ministry	102	99.4	103
Turkmen SSR Construction Ministry	102	101	105
Turkmen SSR Agriculture Ministry	111	109	100.1
Turkmen SSR Highway Construction and Maintenance Ministry	101	106	103
Turkmen SSR Land Reclamation and Water Resources	102	120	108
Manin Karakum Construction Administration [Glavkrakumstroe]	104	106	104
Turkmen SSR Local Industry Ministry	87	102	107
Turkmen SSR Motor Transport	100.1	103	103
Turkmen SSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants and the Book Trade	100.8	103	102
Turkmen SSR State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture	103	103	102

The percentage fulfillment of the plan for the overall output volume during 1983 in the oblasts is as follows:

Ashkhabad	104
Krasnovod	102
Mary	104
Tashauz	108
Chardzhou	101

The production of the most important types of products totaled:

	produced in 1983	1983 as percentage of 1982
Electric power (rayon electric stations), billion kwh	9,169	105
Mineral fertilizers (in standard units), thousand metric tons	57	107
Gas stoves, thousand pieces	106	106
Technological equipment for trade and public catering enterprises, thousand rubles	5,729	110
Prefabricated ferroconcrete structures and parts, thousand cubic meters	620	107
Construction bricks, million pieces	138	105
Drain pipes, thousand km of standard diameter	25	105
Asbestos slate, million standard slabs	58.5	102
Asbestos pipes, km of standard diameter	1,382	103
Window glass, thousand square meters	6,952	120
Furniture, million rubles	18	113
Cotton fiber, thousand tons	354	99
Raw silk, tons	272	125
Hosiery, thousand pairs	5,166	99
Underwear, thousand pieces	6,842	108
Outerwear, thousand pieces	2,609	118
Leather shoes, thousand pairs	3,947	112
Knitted goods, million rubles	140	107
Meat (industrial output), thousand tons	30	103
Wholemilk products in milk equivalent, thousand tons	90	100.8
Cheese and brynza, tons	803	106
Vegetable oil, thousand tons	71	123
Confectionery, thousand tons	22	105
Macaroni foods, thousand tons	14	104
Nonalcoholic beverages, thousand decalitres	1,712	107
Coal extraction, thousand tons	404	106

III. Agriculture:

Verifying the decisions of the May 1982 CPSU Central Committee Plenum on the implementation of the Food Program, the agricultural workers achieved further progress in agricultural production, including grain, raw cotton, melons, and livestock products. The plan for selling to the state grain, raw cotton, melon crops, vegetables, silkworm cocoon, meat, milk, eggs, wool, and astrakhan was fulfilled. Raw cotton production totaled 1,231,400 tons, including 327,300 tons of fine-fiber cotton. Last year 273,100 tons of vegetables, 214,800 tons of melons, 72,400 tons of grapes were collected. More feed was produced that allowed for feed supply during winter.

Production of livestock products in all categories of farms is characterized by the following breakdown:

	in 1982	in 1983
Meat (weight before slaughter), thousand tons	82.3	85.8
Milk, thousand tons	322.7	344.5
Eggs, million	276.3	308.5
Wool (clean fibers), tons	7,918	9,123

The state purchases of livestock products totaled:

Livestock and poultry:		
in live weight	65.1	68.2
in slaughter weight	33.9	35.5
Milk, thousand tons	147.6	156.9
Eggs, million	155.9	166.8

The state purchases of milk in comparison with those of 1982 increased by 6.3 percent; livestock and poultry (in live weight) by 4.8 percent; eggs by 7 percent; and wool by 15.2 percent. The productive livestock in all categories of farms totaled (thousands):

		On 1 January
	1983	1984
Cattle, of which	672.4	687.2
Cows	244.1	252.5
Hogs	194.6	210.4
Sheep and goats	4,460.2	4,523.2

The economy of kolkhozes and sovkhozes was strengthened. Profit of kolkhozes and sovkhozes in 1983 reached R366 million.

IV. Transport and communications:

Freight transportation and freight turnover of individual types of transport are characterized by the following figures:

	Fulfilled in 1983	1983 as percentage of 1982
Freight transportation, thousand tons:		
Rail transport	28,284	104.6
River transport of the general use	4,482	105.3
General purpose motor transport	62,235	106.8
Pipeline transport	3,939	95.3
Freight turnover, million ton-km:		
Rail transport	33,741	106
River transport (general purpose)	125	114.8
Motor transport (general purpose)	1,291	103.2
Pipeline transport	587	97.2

In 1983 transportation work improved a little bit.

Freight turnover of all kinds of transportation 1983 totaled 35.7 billion ton-kilometers and increased by 5.7 percent relative to that of 1982. Passengers turnover reached 7,509 million passenger-kilometers and increased by 4.6 percent. The planned tasks in this field were fulfilled. The rail transportation fulfilled the annual plan for the overall volume of transportation and freight turnover and passenger turnover.

The air transportation overfulfilled the plan for the passengers transportation and passenger turnover and the plan for aviation services to the national economy sectors. About 2 million passengers were transported. The aviation chemical works were carried out on an area of 1,287,000 hectares.

The communication enterprises fulfilled the plan for production output. The growth in comparison with that of 1982 constituted 4.8 percent.

V. Capital Construction:

Capital investments in the national economy at the expense of the state means in the republic totaled R113 million, which indicates that the investments increased by 9 percent in comparison with those during 1982. The commodity output of the state construction organizations totaled R784 million, which is 13 percent greater than that of 1982. The contractual works fulfilled by the state construction and installation organizations increased by 6 percent.

At the same time, the necessary measures for concentrating capital investments and material resources at the starting projects were not implemented and plans for commissioning and fixed funds and some production capacities were not fulfilled. A number of construction organizations did not fulfill the plans for commodity output and volume of contractual works and also the tasks for raising labor productivity and profit and for reducing the cost of construction and installation works and allowed for an advance growth of average wages in comparison with labor productivity. The methods of contract brigades are inadequately developing.

VI. Improvement of Material and Cultural Level of People:

Measures for social development and improvement of the well-being of the people continued in 1983. The real income per capita during the year increased by 2.8 percent. The average monthly wages of workers and employees in the national economy totaled about R183 relative to R181.6 in 1982. The average monthly payment to kolkhozers raised from R148 to R152.

The population received fringe benefits and payments from the public consumption funds in the sum of R1,055,500,000, which is R49.2 million more than in 1982. According to these fringe benefits and payments, the wages of workers and employees increased from R250 to R253 per month.

The retail trade turnover of the state and cooperative trade for 1983 totaled R2,419,900,000 and in comparison with that of 1982 it increased by R136.7 million. The annual plan was not fulfilled.

The sale growth of individual products in the state and cooperative trade is characterized by the following breakdown:

	sold in 1983 as percentages of 1982
Meat and poultry	115
Sausage foods	109
Canned meat	103
Fish	97
Herring	102
Canned fish	81
Butter	100.2
Vegetable oil	98
Margarine products	100.1
Cheese and brynza	110
Sugar	100.8
Confectionery	102
Garments and linen	103
Knitted items	96
Cotton fabric	115
Silk fabric	95
Leather shoes	95
Hosiery	106
Radio receivers and radio gramaphones	91

In the process of increasing trade turnover the increasing demand of the population for some food and industrial products is still not fully satisfied.

The volume of the domestic services rendered to the population in comparison with that during 1982 raised by 8.3 percent and in rural areas it raised by 10.2 percent. The annual plan for realizing domestic services to the population was fulfilled at 100.5 percent and in rural areas at 101.4 percent. The system of work of the enterprises and establishments working in the field of services was put in order.

At the expense of all the financial resources 13,000 new comfortable flats were constructed on an overall areas of 1.059 million square meters. The living conditions of 89,000 persons were improved. General education schools accommodating 21,900 pupils, preschools with 5,600 places, and other cultural projects were put into operation. In rural areas houses were constructed on an overall area of 589,000 square meters and general education schools accommodating 14,400 pupils, and preschools with 2,800 places were established.

However, the plan for the construction of houses and projects and social and cultural significance was not fulfilled.

Efforts were made for further prosperity and for the gasification of the inhabited areas. Measures were implemented for the rational use of natural resources and for environment protection.

Reforestation was carried out in the state forests on 32,800 hectares. Popular education and culture made further progress. Over 1 million people are studying in the various systems of education, of whom 784,900 studied in the general education schools; 44,200 in the professional and technical schools, including 28,600 in the secondary schools; 35,700 in the technical schools and other secondary education institutions; and 39,400 in people in the higher educational institutions.

In 1983 16,200 specialized workers were discharged to the national economy, including 6,200 persons with higher education and 10,000 with secondary specialized education. During the year, 23,800 young qualified workers were prepared by the professional and technical institutions and 28,700 persons were enrolled in these institutions, including 10,800 persons in the secondary professional and technical schools. New professions were taught and the qualifications of about 240,000 persons were improved.

There are 1,434 mass libraries with over 14 million book copies in services of the urban and rural population.

The medical service and the organized recreation of the population were expanded. The number of doctors of all specializations totaled 9,200

The republic's population was 3,122,900 on 1 January 1984.

Unanimously supporting and adopting the decisions of the December 1983 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the republic's labor collectives widely spread socialist emulation for fulfilling and overfulfilling the planned talks during 1984, for increasing labor productivity by 1 percent ahead of the scheduled plan and reducing cost by 0.5 percent and for adequately responding to the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Turkmen SSR and the Turkmenistan Communist Party.

BRIEFS

CPSU TO OIL REFINERY -- The CPSU Central Committee has sent greetings to all those involved in construction of a complex for the production of aromatic hydrocarbons at Ufa oil refinery named for the 22d CPSU plenum on the commissioning of this major modern enterprise. The greetings speak of the great importance of fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Central Committee plenum in further chemicalization of the national economy. The works collective ensured early mastering of the planned production capacity. The CPSU Central Committee expressed the conviction that the builders and maintenance staff will exert all efforts to fulfill the tasks for the year and for the 5-year period as a whole. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0100 GMT 24 Feb 84 LD]

NEW POWER RELAY LINE -- A new 750,000-volt power relay line will meet the growing needs for electricity in the great industrial and agrarian region in the south Ukraine as well as in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. It will run from the south Ukrainian atomic power station to Dobrudzha in Bulgaria. To lay the nearly 400-km line, the builders and assembly workers must do a great deal of work; they must cross the Southern Bug, the Dnestr, and the Danube Rivers. To overcome the obstacles, they will need to build a number of complex engineering facilities. Thus, a pole nearly 130 meters high will rise on both banks of the Danube. The first stage of the line is scheduled to be put into operation in 1984. [Text] [Kiev in Ukrainian to North America 2200 GMT 21 Feb 21 Feb 84 AU]

MOSCOW MEETING MARKS ARMED FORCES ANNIVERSARY

PM231455 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Feb 84 Second Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Ceremonial Session in Moscow"]

[Text] The Central Academic Theater of the Soviet Army was decked with flags and banners. In the evening of 22 February, representatives of Moscow's working people, servicemen from the capital's garrison, and Armed Forces veterans came here to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

On the presidium at the ceremony were Comrade G.V. Romanov, D.F. Ustinov, V.M. Chebrikov; L.V. Smirnov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; USSR ministers O.D. Baklanov, I.S. Belousov, E.K. Pervyshin, and I.S. Silayev; Marshal of the Soviet Union N.V. Ogarkov, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister; Army General G.K. Tsinev, first deputy chairman of the USSR KGB; USSR Deputy Defense Ministers, Chief Marshal of Artillery V.F. Tolubko, Marshal of Aviation A.I. Koldunov, Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union S.G. Gorshkov, Marshal of the Soviet Union S.K. Kurkotkin, Army General V.M. Shabanov, Marshal of Engineering Forces N.F. Shestopalov, and Army Generals A.T. Altunin and I.N. Shkadov; V.I. Drugov, first deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department, Admiral A.I. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Colonel General M.G. Sobolev and Lieutenant General B.P. Utkin, deputy chiefs of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; and also marshals of categories of troops, generals, admirals, officers, representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations, designers of combat hardware and armaments, and pilot-cosmonauts of the USSR.

The ceremonial meeting was opened by V.P. Trushin, secretary of Moscow Gorkom.

To tumultuous applause from those present, an honorary presidium was elected, comprising the CPSU Central Committee Politburo.

Soviet servicemen were warmly and cordially greeted and congratulated on the holiday, on behalf of the capital's working people, by Hero of Socialist Labor A.G. Losev, fitter at Moscow's Kalibr Tool Building Plant, and on behalf of Komsomol members and young people, by L.I. Shvetsova, secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee.

The meeting was addressed by Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister. He warmly congratulated those present and all the Armed Forces personnel on Soviet Army and Navy Day. Soviet servicemen, he stressed, fulfilling the decisions of the 26th party congress and the subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, are persistently mastering mighty weapons and modern combat hardware, serve vigilantly in their watch over our motherland's sacred brothers, and devoutly protect and augment the glorious combat traditions of the USSR Armed Forces.

Expressing filial gratitude to the Communist Party for its all-around concern and attention, Soviet servicemen assure the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government that, in close combat collaboration with the armies of the Warsaw Pact countries, they will continue to watch vigilantly over peace and the people's security and defend socialism's historic gains.

The participants in the meeting adopted a letter of greetings to the CPSU Central Committee and Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

After the ceremonies, a major festive concert was held.

COMMENTARY MARKS ARMED FORCES JUBILEE CELEBRATION

PM231501 [Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 February 1984 Morning Edition front-pages an unattributed commentary entitled "Invincible and Legendary" pegged to Soviet Army and Navy Day. The text of the commentary runs:

"The Soviet people and the Communist Party have entrusted to our Army and Navy what is most precious -- the protection of the gains of socialism and the Soviet land's state interests. They trust them, together with the armies of the socialist community countries, to vigilantly guard the security of all the fraternal peoples.

"The soldiers and officers of the eighties are continuing the best traditions of the past generations who decided the fate of our motherland and the future of all mankind in the victorious war against Hitler's Germany. Their great love of the motherland, military comradeship, and readiness to perform exploits was passed on to them by their fathers and grandfathers. The rocket and motorized rifle troops, tankmen and gunners, airmen and seamen are mastering first-class equipment.

"Our country is threatening no one. Following Lenin's behests, the Soviet people have displayed love of peace at all stages of the socialist state's development. It is the aggressiveness of the enemies of peace that compels our motherland to strengthen its defense capability.

"As they celebrate the 66th anniversary of the Armed Forces, our troops are fully aware of the complexity of the present-day international situation. This makes them perform their military service more vigilantly and improve their combat readiness to rebuff the aggressor. Widespread socialist competition is under way in the Army and Navy under the slogan: "Be on guard and in a state of constant combat readiness to defend socialist gains!"

The commentary is accompanied by three photographs captioned as follows: "Air defense troops reliably guarding our peaceful sky," "Marine units landing," and "Tankmen and motorized riflemen displaying close cooperation in attack."

OGARKOV GIVES ARMY, NAVY DAY ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS

OW281337 Moscow Television Service in Russian 0927 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Address by Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolay Vasilyevich Ogarkov, USSR first deputy minister of defense and chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, on the occasion of Soviet Army and Navy Day -- recorded; place not given.]

[Text] Dear comrades, today is a big national holiday. The Soviet Armed Forces are 66 years old. Servicemen of our Army and Navy, like all Soviet people, are greeting this day in an atmosphere of high creative activity. Born in October, the Soviet Armed Forces under the tested leadership of the Communist Party have, over the years, traversed an unparalleled combat path. Their birth and growth are linked entirely with the name of Vladimir Ilich Lenin.

It was precisely Lenin who, with his brilliant insight and bold thought and on the basis of a profound and comprehensive analysis of the situation and the experience of the revolution, revealed the objective necessity of establishing a regular Red Army. Vladimir Ilich validated its aims and social nature, elaborated the principle of its organization and directly guided its creation and combat activities.

And now, many decades later the grandeur of the scientific and organizational feat of the great Lenin and the enormous activity of the Communist Party in creating the military organization of the socialist state are seen with particular clarity. At the same time, the outstanding progressive role of the Army created by Lenin in the history of our motherland and of all mankind is also clearly visible. The very history of its outstanding victories is confirmation of this.

During the memorable days of February 1918 when the first detachments of the newly established Red Army smashed the troops of Kaiser's Germany at Pskov and Narva, accomplished what seemed to be a personal as well as an extremely important task: They defended Petrograd, the heart and cradle of the revolution. When international imperialism, with the help of internal counterrevolution, imposed many years of civil war on us, the young Red Army led by the party of Lenin managed to defend, in the most difficult of conditions, the first republic of soviets, utterly smashing not only the hordes of the internal counterrevolution but the crack troops of 14 interventionist states as well.

As a result of that unparalleled victory, a larger task had also been accomplished: Conditions for the formation of the USSR, the world's first socialist state, were ensured. A sixth of our planet was liberated forever from the bondage of capitalism.

Further, during the years 1941-45 when the Soviet people and their Armed Forces under the leadership of the Communist Party smashed, in incredibly fierce battles, the Hitlerite military machine -- the shock force of imperialism -- and the Japanese Kwantung Army, they not only defended their socialist fatherland but extended internationalist assistance to many other countries in their liberation from the foreign yoke. As a result, a number of countries in Europe and Asia broke away from the capitalist system and people's democracies were established. A world socialist system had been formed. We can clearly see the consistently growing historical significance of the victories achieved.

Nearly 40 years have passed since the end of World War II, during which fundamental changes have taken place in the world. The world socialist system has been firmly established, completely consolidated, and further developed. The international workers and communist movement has expanded extensively. The national liberation struggle has taken on an unprecedented scope. The number of independent states has increased threefold during the postwar years. Besides, the people of a number of Asian, African, and Latin American countries have firmly chosen a course of socialist orientation. As a result, the sphere of influence of imperialism has been constantly shrinking. The general crisis of capitalism has inexorably deepened.

Under these conditions the forces of imperialism and reaction, attempting at any price to stop this objective process of development and reverse the course of history, have hurled themselves into revenge with the persistence of the doomed. They have thrown everything into this [poshli va-bank], as they say. This was manifested most vividly from the beginning of the eighties with the coming to power in the United States of the new administration.

As a result, the world today is in a truly uneasy state. Never before have the military preparations of the United States and its NATO allies been on such a broad scale. Having loudly proclaimed a crusade against socialism through the mouth of the president, Washington has sharply expanded its military programs. The Americans are now spending incredible sums for military purposes. For example, during the forth coming financial year this spending will amount to $313 billion, or nearly a billion dollars a day -- not a million but a billion every day. The question arises: What for?

At the same time the United States, pursuing its new strategy of so-called direct opposition [protivoborstvo], is intensively realizing a broad program of heightening tensions and destabilizing the situation in the world. The broad economic and political diversions against other countries and the direct and genuinely bandit actions of the United States and its henchmen against sovereign states, such as Lebanon, Angola, Grenada, and Nicaragua, attest to this.

The unbridled development and accumulation of nuclear weapons by the United States present an even greater threat to peace. Its available reserves have already exceeded many times over any military requirements. And continuation of the race is not only completely senseless but dangerous as well.

The Soviet Union, which at one time created its own nuclear weapons in response to U.S. actions, has repeatedly come out for and still comes out for their reduction and consequently their complete destruction. These proposals of the Soviet Union are well known, including the simplest one which is at the same time extremely effective. As a start, freeze the nuclear arms of both sides at existing levels without lengthy talks. This would permit both the United States and the Soviet Union to release considerable funds, practically billions, and create favorable conditions for a subsequent reduction of arms and armed forces.

However, all these concrete Soviet peace proposals apparently do not correspond with the strategic aims of the United States. At the last talks on nuclear arms it intententionally moved away from possible agreements with the Soviet Union, and, as is now clear to all, it simply attempted to beat the air so that behind the cover of talks at the negotiations it could deploy its intermediate-range missiles in Europe as a first-strike asset at all costs.

It seems that the present strategists across the ocean are not relinquishing hopes of once again testing the strength of our defenses. As in the past, they are also seeking various ways to gain the upper hand over the Soviet Union and the socialist community countries. In connection with this we could suggest that they take a look at the history of development of the Soviet state and its Armed Forces and remind them of the famous Leninist words. I will cite them. Our affairs are standing firmly, Vladimir Ilich said. Regardless of what the attempts to attack Russia will be like -- and there will probably be more than one attempt to this kind -- we know that all of these attempts will crumble into dust. And after every attempt of this kind by our enemies we will emerge even stronger than before. These are accurate, perspicacious words -- Leninist words. Therefore, as Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov declared in his time, we would not advise anybody to organize a test of strength.

Defending the cause of peace, the Soviet Union is showing tireless concern for strengthening the country's defense. Particular responsibility in solving this task is naturally placed on our Armed Forces. In the postwar period they have strengthened even more and have become a powerful factor in ensuring security and strengthening peace on earth.

The development and training of the Soviet Armed Forces at the present time is being carried out on a qualitatively new basis. All services of the armed forces and service arms are being developed harmoniously. The most modern weapons and combat equipment is being delivered to equip them. The operational, combat, and political training is being maintained at the proper level and the combat training of troops, aviation, and the fleet [vyuchka voysk, aviatsii i flota] is being constantly improved. A big job aimed at the upbringing of personnel and at raising the combat readiness of the Army and Navy is being carried out by political organs, party, and Komsomol organizations.

The strength and might of our Armed Forces is augmented many times over by the fact that formidable weapons are in the reliable hands of Soviet servicemen -- servicemen who are patriots.

Today 93 percent of our servicemen have a secondary or higher education. Nearly 90 percent of the troops are Communists or Komsomol members who turn our Army and Navy into an invincible force.

The most important source of the strength and invincibility of the Soviet Armed Forces always was and remains the leadership of the Communist Party, the monolithic unity of the Army and people. The defense of the socialist motherland is the task of every Soviet person, the task of all the people.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government demand that we attentively follow the development of the situation and that we persistently work to further strengthen the defensive might of the country and raising the combat readiness of the Armed Forces. This was emphasized with new force by Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the Central Committee of our party, at the February Central Committee Plenum.

Fulfilling these demands of the party and government and the tasks set by the minister of defense for training the armed forces, Soviet servicemen are persistently perfecting their combat skills. They warmly support the internal and foreign policy of the Soviet state and demonstrate monolithic unity around the Leninist party and its Central Committee. The Soviet Armed Forces are fulfilling their historic mission of defending socialism and peace in a single combat formation with the armies of the countries of the socialist community; reliably ensuring the present and future generations a calm and peaceful future.

In conclusion, permit me, dear comrades, today, on Soviet Army and Navy Day, to heartily congratulate all Soviet people, veterans of our Army and Navy, and all servicemen of the Soviet Armed Forces who are vigilantly standing guard over the peaceful labor of the Soviet people and in defense of socialism and peace, on this great national holiday. All the best to you.

MARSHAL OGARKOV HOSTS ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

LD231607 Moscow TASS in English 1528 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow February 23 TASS -- The Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, First Deputy Minister of Defence of the USSR Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolay Ogarkov today held a reception on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

Present at the reception were marshals of the Soviet Union, marshals of individual services, generals, admirals, officers of the Soviet Armed Forces, veterans of the Great Patriotic War, representatives of party, soviet and public organisations.

Among the guests were military, naval and air attaches of the embassies of foreign states.

The reception passed in a warm, friendly atmosphere.

KOLDUNOV WRITES ON MILITARY ANNIVERSARY

PM231225 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 23 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by twice Hero of the Soviet Union Marshal of Aviation A. Koldunov, commander in chief of the Air Defense Forces and USSR deputy defense minister: "Guarding Peace and Socialism"]

[Text] Our people and their Armed Forces are celebrating the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy as a nationwide holiday. The decisions of the CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum have received unanimous approval and support from Soviet people and Army and Navy servicemen. The nationwide preparations for the elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet are imparting an atmosphere of high political and labor activeness to the traditional holiday.

In response to the CPSU Central Committee appeal to all voters and citizens of the USSR, the servicemen of the Soviet Army and Navy are enhancing their vigilance and combat readiness and are continuing to constantly improve their combat skills and expertise.

Soviet people are rightly proud of their Army. All its heroic annals are brilliantly illuminated by the light of October. Our Army's first regular units were born under the red banners of the revolution and were steeled in fierce battles with the White Guards and foreign interventionists. The military valor glory of the heroes of the storming of the Perekop, the defenders of Petrograd, the Budennyy and Chapayev troops, the revolutionary sailors of the Baltic and the Black Seas, and the Siberian and Amur partisans will never fade in the people's memory.

Soviet servicemen carried their combat banners with honor through the battles of the Great Patriotic War -- The hardest war in our motherland's history. On the fields of the cruelest battles with world imperialism's strike force -- fascist Germany's Army -- Soviet people showed their indestructible spirit, supreme patriotism, selflessness, and military valor, and their readiness and resolve to defend the socialist fatherland and the gains of socialism to the last drop of their blood. For the courage and gallantry shown in the battles for the motherland more than 7 million people were awarded orders and medals and over 11,500 were honored with the lofty title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The results of the Great Patriotic War are a severe and unforgettable lesson of history and a terrible warning to aggressive imperialist forces and those fond of military adventures. At the same time the lessons of the war teach us supreme vigilance. It is well known that socialism and peace are indivisible concepts. However, in order to live in conditions of peace and successfully build a communist society it is necessary to have a powerful army and maintain its combat might and combat readiness at a level capable of opposing a strong, technically well equipped, and well trained enemy.

Through imperialism's fault, in recent years the international situation has deteriorated and the military danger for our country and the socialist community as a whole has grown. The militarist, adventurist course of the present U.S. leadership represents an immense threat to peace. It has unleashed an arms race that is unprecedented in scale, carries out impudent interference in other states' internal affairs, and undertakes overt acts of aggression. Thus, the United States has invaded Grenada, is fanning the flames of conflict in the Near East, and is waging an undeclared war against the peoples of Afghanistan and Nicaragua. There is no end to the U.S. imperialists' threats against socialist Cuba. Contrary to the peoples' will and with the connivance of its allies in the aggressive NATO bloc the U.S. aggressors have embarked on siting their first-strike nuclear missiles in Europe.

Behind all the actions of the United States and its NATO allies you can clearly see a desire to smash the military equilibrium that has emerged, which forms the basis of international security, and achieve superiority over the USSR and the Warsaw Pact countries. Vain hopes. The land of the soviets and its Armed Forces will not permit this.

The intensification of imperialism's aggressiveness demands of Soviet people supreme vigilance, composure, organization, and selfless labor for the sake of strengthening the country's economic might and defense capability. In response to the militarist course of the United States and the other NATO countries the Soviet Union has been forced to take the necessary measures to further strengthen its defense and enhance the combat strength of its Armed Forces which bear a special responsibility for the security of the motherland and the socialist community countries. Together with the armies of the fraternal socialist countries the USSR Armed Forces curb the reactionary imperialist circles' aggressive aspirations with their combat might, reliably defend revolutionary gains, and are a powerful factor for peace and the peoples' security.

The Soviet Army and Navy are constantly developing. With the entry into service of nuclear and missile weaponry all branches of the Armed Forces have undergone a qualitative transformation in recent years. Firepower, strike power, and maneuverability have grown significantly, and the combat readiness of the Ground Forces, the Air Forces and the Navy has increased. The strategic Missile Forces and nuclear submarines make up the foundation of the Soviet Armed Forces' combat strength. They are equipped with the latest missiles with nuclear charges of immense destructive power, long-range capability, and high strike accuracy.

The strength and invincibility of our Armed Forces lies in the party's leadership and their unbreakable unity with the people. The party takes constant care to strengthen this unity. Soviet people's successes in communist building evoke in servicemen a feeling of great pride. They rejoice at the achievements in the implementation of the Food Program. The armed defenders of the fatherland are in step with the people. They are deeply aware of their great responsibility in reliably safeguarding the country's security and the gains of socialism. Servicemen spare no effort in the struggle to enhance combat readiness and are mastering with persistence and tenacity the difficult science of conquering a strong, technically well-equipped, and perfidious adversary. During the past year the standard of the troops' combat training has improved noticeably, and the ranks of those excelling in combat and political training and of qualified specialists have swelled.

Soviet servicemen are celebrating their glorious holiday with tenacious and purposeful combat training. Socialist competition under the slogan "Be on the alert, in constant readiness to defend the gains of socialism!" has assumed a broad scale among the troops. In the Air Defense Forces this competition was initiated by The Guards Air defense Missile Regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel V.D. Nechayev. The regiment has rich combat traditions. For courage and heroism displayed by personnel in the battles against the Hitlerite invaders, it has been awarded the honorary title "Smolenskiy," and the Orders of the Red Banner, Suvorov, Kutuzov, and Bogdan Khmeinitskiy. Last year the missile troops reaffirmed the reputation of the unit's excellence and succeeded in getting it on to the Board of Honor of the Soviet Army's and Navy's leading units and ships. Today, too the personnel are tenaciously and persistently striving for high indicators in military labor and in further enhancing vigilance and combat readiness. As always, Communists and Komsomol members are in the vanguard of the struggle for efficiency and quality in combat training and for a high standard of organization and discipline. They account for more than 90 percent of Army and Navy personnel.

Our people rightly describe the Soviet Armed Forces as a school of courage, staunchness, and high morality. Service in the Army and the Navy provides the best conditions for developing and bringing out the heroic side of the human character. During exercises, field firing, missile launches, ocean voyages, during operational duties, and while assimilating new equipment complex situations often arise which demand courage, staunchness, resourcefulness, valor, combat initiative, and decisiveness from the servicemen. It is correct to say that in life there is always room for heroic deeds. But to work heroic deeds you have to be prepared for them. And this is what many servicemen are proving in practice. In peace time the lofty title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been bestowed on Air Defense Forces Airman Colonel I. Zhukov, Lieutenant Colonels V. Shcherbakov and Ye. Zelnyakov, Major S. Kozlov, Captain N. Akramov, Senior Lieutenant I. Ploskonos, and others. Every year thousands of servicemen are awarded orders and medals for selfless military labor.

Among those excelling in combat and political training, highly qualified specialists, and masters of military affairs, there are quite a few former agricultural workers. In the Air Defense Forces they include Guards Privates N.P. Chugainov and N.A. Chugainov from Perm Oblast's Sapolskiy Sovkhoz, Junior Sergeant A. Begelov from the Kabarda Balkar ASSR, Private First Class V. Neizvestnyy from Kuybyshev Oblast's Mayak Sovkhoz, Guards Private S. Sinotov from Yaroslavl Oblast's Gorkiy Kolkhoz, and many others. They are all distinguished by an active life stance, a high sense of duty, conscientiousness in service, and readiness to fulfill any of the commander's orders. There is no doubt that, when necessary, these servicemen will tackle heroic deeds with simplicity and courage as their heroic fathers and grandfathers did.

Soviet servicemen not only reliably protect the motherland's borders, they also participate actively in the country's sociopolitical and economic life. Many thousands of their best representatives have been elected as soviet deputies and members of local party and Komsomol organs. Active work is now under way among the troops in preparation for the USSR Supreme Soviet elections. Servicemen are endeavoring to mark this great political event by rallying even more closely around the Leninist party and enhancing vigilance and combat readiness.

The servicemen's contribution to our state's economy is weighty. Thousands of them are laboring selflessly on the construction of the Baykal-Amur Railroad and on other important projects, and they help the rural workers to bring in the harvest every year. In 1983 alone, for instance, Air Defense Forces motor transportation troops transported 11.5 million metric tons of agricultural goods.

The technical training which the young people receive during their army service is of great national economic significance. It is difficult to enumerate all the trades which are acquired by servicemen and sergeants. On their return from the Army to their plant or their kolkhoz they easily find work which corresponds to their new qualifications. Moreover, having undergone a school of political tempering and discipline, they contribute greatly, by their conduct and their highly responsible attitude to matters, to the establishment of firm order and organization in labor collectives.

Our servicemen are celebrating the 66th anniversary of the Army and the Navy in a state of high combat readiness, closely rallied around the Leninist Communist Party. Proud of the high trust placed in them by the party and the people and loyal to their patriotic and international duty, they are vigilantly and reliably standing guard over peace, the peoples' security, and the gains of socialism.

ARMY POLITICAL CHIEF YEPISHEV ON ARMY, NAVY DAY

PM231218 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Feb 84 Morning Edition pp 1-2

[Article by Army General A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate: "A Reliable Custodian of Peace"]

[Text] The Soviet Union and its Armed Forces are celebrating the 66th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. For our country the present day is characterized by an atmosphere of great political and labor enthusiasm. This was produced by the decisions of the December (1983) and the extraordinary February (1984) Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and the preparations for the elections to our country's supreme organ of state power -- the USSR Supreme Soviet. Like all other Soviet people the troops of the Army and Navy unanimously approve and support the decisions of the extraordinary February (1984) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee and the election of Comrade K.U. Chernenko as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

For nearly two-thirds of a century our Armed Forces, created and educated by V.I. Lenin and the Communist Party, have been honorably carrying out their responsible and noble missions. In celebrating the Army and Navy jubilee the working people of cities and villages are paying tribute to the exploits performed by Soviet troops in the name of the freedom and independence of the first-ever state of workers and peasants. Our Army's outstanding victories over the interventionists and White

Guards during the civil war are inscribed in gold in the heroic annals of the socialist homeland. It totally routed the hordes of fascist Germany and militarist Japan and saved mankind from the Hitlerite yoke. With their entire combat might the Soviet Armed Forces are serving the cause of the defense of peace and of the security of the peoples.

The situation in the world today is alarming. Despite the lessons of history and common sense, reactionary imperialist circles want to destroy socialism as a social system. They have declared a "crusade" against our motherland and the other socialist countries. The forces of reaction are seeking to retard the world revolutionary process by force of arms.

Reactionary circles in the West are endeavoring to conceal their hectic military preparations beneath a heap of deliberate lies about the so-called "military threat" from the Soviet Union and about its condition of "superarmament." The "psychological warfare" the imperialists are waging against the socialist community countries is becoming increasingly blatant.

In his speech at the extraordinary February (1984) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the party's Central Committee, stressed: "We do not need military superiority and we have no intention of dictating to others; but we will not allow the established military balance to be broken. And let no one have the slightest doubt that we will continue to be concerned about the strength of our country's defense capability and to ensure that we have sufficient means to be able to cool the hot heads of bellicose adventurists."

The Soviet Union has never threatened anyone. But in conditions of the heightened danger of attack by reactionary imperialist forces the USSR, together with its allies, is taking steps to protect its own security. By agreement with the GDR and CSSR our enhanced-range operational-tactical missiles are being deployed on their territories. Corresponding Soviet weapons will be deployed in ocean regions and at sea. Other steps are being taken to safeguard the security of our country and our allies.

Thanks to the daily concern of the Communist Party and Soviet state and the people's labor, the Army and Navy now have all they need for the reliable defense of the motherland and the gains of socialism. Their combat might enables them to successful perform any complex task that they might encounter in the present-day situation.

The Armed Forces of the Soviet land have a special responsibility for the safety of the gains of socialism and world peace. The growing direct military threat from the United States and NATO requires us to be on the alert and to maintain the combat readiness of the Army and Navy at the highest possible level, which will guarantee the frustration of the aggressor's strategic designs and a devastating rout. This is the conclusion that the commanders, political workers, and entire personnel of the Armed Forces draw for themselves from the CPSU Central Committee's appeal to all voters and citizens of the USSR, which says: "Troops of the Soviet Army and Navy! The party and the people urge you to constantly improve your combat skill and training and work hard to master your formidable weapons and modern equipment. Perform your sacred duty to the motherland in a fitting manner and be always on guard!"

Today you will find the sons and grandsons of Great Patriotic War heroes in the Army and Navy ranks. They have a high level of general educational training, they are versed in the combat and revolutionary traditions of the party and people, and they are totally loyal to their beloved motherland. In intensive training, in conditions which are as close as possible to those of actual combat, the troops constantly improve their ground, air and sea skills, mastering weapons and equipment and the science of winning modern battles.

Party and political work is being conducted in the Army and Navy from the standpoint of the increased demands. Commanders, political organs and party and Komsomol organizations are concerned to ensure that every serviceman, be he officer or private, is profoundly aware of the real danger of war and has a sense of personal responsibility for outstanding mastery of weapons and combat skill.

The tasks set for the new training year are being successfully solved in the Army and Navy. The work of military collectives is characterized by an orientation toward high qualitative results during voyages, flights, artillery and missile firing, and exercises. The lofty pledges in socialist competition under the slogan "Be on guard and in constant combat readiness for the defense of the gains of socialism!" are being persistently fulfilled.

The initiators of competition in the branches of the Armed Forces -- the Red Banner Orders of Suvorov and Kutuzov Proskurovskiy Motorized Rifle Regiment commanded by Major A. Stolyarov; the missile unit commanded by lieutenant Colonel A. Pavlov; the Red Banner Orders of Suvorov, Kutozov, and Bogdan Khmelnitskiy Smolenskiy Guards Air Defense Missile Regiment commanded by Lt Col V. Nechayev; the twice order-bearing guards fighter aircraft regiment of Guards Lieutenant Colonel Yu. Temnikov; and the Red Banner nuclear missile cruiser "Kirov" headed by Captain First Class A. Kovalchuk -- are greeting the festival with good training indicators.

Communists of the Army and Navy are in the vanguard of the front-runners in combat and political training, one in two is rated "excellent" in training. At report and election meetings and party conferences, held in the spirit of the demands of the 24th CPSU Congress and subsequent plenums of the party Central Committee, Army and Navy Communists have outlined lofty targets for the improvement of combat readiness and political vigilance and for strengthening discipline in units and on ships.

The troops of the Army and Navy are working smoothly with the rest of the country. As well as carrying out their historical mission of guarding the motherland's security, they are helping the people to solve creative tasks. Engineers are building housing, social, cultural, and consumer service projects, and other national economic facilities. Soldiers are working on the eastern section of the Baykal-Amur railroad. Our drivers make a big annual contribution to the harvest.

The personnel of our Armed Forces, as the Army of a developed socialist society, are characterized by vigorous participation in the country's political life. Servicemen are elected to leading party and soviet organs and perform the duties entrusted to them in a fitting manner. Widespread preparations for the USSR Supreme Soviet elections are under way in units and on ships. At election meetings and during meetings with candidate deputies expressions of servicemen's unanimous support for the Communist Party's domestic and foreign policy are ringing out with new force.

In their ideological and organizational work commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations are bearing in mind the fact that an absolute majority of the conscripts and some young officers, ensigns and warrant officers will be voting for the first time. In units and on ships every effort is being made to ensure that young voters remember this event for the rest of their lives as a manifestation of direct involvement in shaping the supreme organ of state power and that it is an important stage in the civic maturity of young people.

The voters' meetings with candidate deputies who are servicemen that are being held in many places have developed into demonstrations of the unbreakable unity of the Army and the people. At these meetings Soviet people are expressing firm confidence that the Armed Forces will always be reliable custodians of peace and of the security of our motherland.

The role of the Soviet Army and Navy as a school of education, ideological tempering, discipline, and morality is increasing. Young workers and kolkhoz members, students and former schoolchildren are coming from all the Soviet republics to join units and ships. They join multinational military collectives, serve side by side with one another, learn combat professions, and undergo moral and physical tempering. During their years of service their sense of patriotism and internationalism and of the fraternity of our country's peoples will strengthen. The commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations of units and ships receive many letters of gratitude for their education of young people who, following transfer to the reserve, are working successfully at the shock construction sites of the 5-year plan, at plants, and in kolkhoz fields. Army and Navy tempering -- these words have become synonymous with selflessness, diligence and an active life stance.

The education of a soldier, patriot, and internationalist who has an outstanding mastery of modern weapons and combat equipment and a deep awareness of his personal responsibility for the motherland's security is a multifaceted and complex task. It is solved more successfully when young people acquire military knowledge and a clear idea of the development of events in the world arena prior to joining the Army or Navy. Local party organizations, soviets, and all those involved in military patriotic education are now urged to step up the ideological tempering of future servicemen. The heroic traditions of the party and people and the Armed Forces must be even more widely popularized, Army and Navy life must be depicted more vividly in the press and on radio and television, and a greater effort must be made to instill in young men a desire to conscientiously perform their constitutional duty to defend the socialist homeland. The reform general educational and vocational schools whose basic guidelines are currently being widely discussed in the country will also help to improve the standard and effectiveness of the military patriotic education of students and to prepare young men for Army and Navy service.

The Armed Forces are greeting their anniversary mighty and invincible. They are ever vigilant! Together with the armies of the fraternal socialist states they are reliably ensuring the safety of the gains of socialism. The peaceful labor of Soviet people is being defended, and defended reliably!

GEN SHABANOV WRITES ON ARMY, NAVY DAY JUBILEE

PM231235 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 23 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Hero of Socialist Labor Army General V. Shabanov, USSR deputy defense minister for armaments, under the rubric "Today Is Soviet Army and Navy Day": "Being in a State of Combat Readiness"]

[Text] An obelisk soars up proudly on Pskov soil like the point of a bayonet. This majestic monument was erected to the glory of the first battles and victories of the Red Army. Here, at Pskov and Narva, detachments of Red Army volunteers stopped and advance of the Kaiser's forces 23 February 1918. This day went down in our motherland's history as the birthday of the Soviet Army and Navy.

In the past years the Soviet Armed Forces have traveled a long and glorious path under the leadership of the Communist Party and have won many brilliant victories in the struggle against the imperialist aggressors. Thanks to the party's concern, the Army's and Navy's equipment with up-to-date weapons and combat hardware is constantly improving and the quality of personnel's combat training and ideological tempering is increasing.

One of the most important components forming the concept of the combat potential of the Soviet Armed Forces today is the high technical standard of equipment.

Attaching tremendous importance to this aspect of Soviet military building, our party -- true to great Lenin's behests -- has paid the closest attention to equipping the Armed Forces with up-to-date arms and military hardware at all stages of our state's development. To this end Soviet military doctrine has proceeded from the need to develop all branches of the Armed Forces and categories of troops in a balanced manner, to motorize them as far as possible, and to make full use of the latest scientific and technical achievements.

At the same time it must be noted that the Soviet Union has never striven and is not striving now to achieve military superiority. In confirmation of this, let us recall that the initiator in building intercontinental strategic bombers and nuclear ballistic missile submarines was the United States. It was also the first to start mass deployment of ground-launched ICBM's. It was the United States which not only was the first to create the atomic bomb but was also the only country in the world to use it, with no military necessity against a peaceful population.

Could the Soviet Union sit idly by in such conditions? Of course not!

We must react to the military threat created by the United States and create and manufacture the necessary weapons for our own part.

And the emphasis here is on the types of weapons which play a determining role in increasing the Armed Forces' readiness to repulse possible aggression. The chief component of our Armed Forces' combat might and the main factor in deterring the aggressor is the strategic nuclear forces, composed of groupings and formations of the Strategic Missile Forces, the Navy, and the Air Force.

Strategic missiles have powerful thermonuclear charges, possess high strike accuracy, and are in a state of constant combat readiness.

The motorized infantry and tank divisions of the Ground Forces today possess hundreds of up-to-date tanks, infantry combat vehicles and armored personnel carriers and have the necessary quantity of self-propelled artillery and combat helicopters. Tactical and operation-tactical missiles and artillery constitute the fire and strike power of the Ground Forces.

Air formations and units are equipped with supersonic all-weather aircraft with automated weapons and flight guidance systems, powerful power units, and various kinds of missiles.

The Air Defense Forces have formidable weapons at their disposal. They are armed with multichannel surface-to-air missile complexes which are very efficient in hitting airborne targets and with up-to-date interceptor aviation complexes.

The Navy includes nuclear submarines with various kinds of missile and torpedo arsenals, missile-carrying naval aircraft, the mighty armaments of surface ships, and marines and is capable of fulfilling operational and tactical tasks with a great degree of autonomy.

Army and Navy servicemen have worked fruitfully in the training year which has elapsed. Combat training of personnel has increased. This has been assisted to a considerable degree by socialist competition.

In 1984 socialist competition has been mounted in our Armed Forces under the slogan: "Be alert and constantly ready to defend the gains of socialism!" This embraces various spheres of Army and Navy life and is an integral part of the educational and training process. Army and Navy servicemen are doing everything to ensure that they are in a state of high combat readiness ruling out any possibility of our being taken unawares.

In the current tense international situation the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government are steadily and consistently pursuing a peace-loving foreign policy and doing everything possible to maintain and consolidate peace and prevent nuclear war. "We do not require military superiority," K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said in his speech at the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary February Plenum, "we do not intend to dictate our will to anybody, but we will not permit the military balance that has been achieved to be upset. And let nobody have the slightest doubt that we will continue to take care to strengthen our country's defense capability and to ensure that we have sufficient means to be able to cool the hot heads of bellicose adventurists. This, comrades, is a very vital precondition for maintaining peace."

Soviet servicemen, boundlessly dedicated to their people and their own Communist Party and in a single formation with the servicemen of the fraternal armies of the socialist community countries, are constantly ready to fulfill with honor their sacred patriotic and international duty to defend their socialist motherland and the gains of socialism and peace.

AIR COMBAT EXERCISE HELD ON ARMY, NAVY DAY

LD240308 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 23 Feb 84

[From the Vremya newscast; Krutov video report]

[Excerpts] Today is Soviet Army and Navy Day. Soldiers and officers of the eighties have mastered first-class equipment and persistently study how to act in the most complicated combat situations. A few minutes ago the radar intercepted an unknown target. Combat is already under way -- air combat, with fast flowing maneuvers. That is how exercises began in a guards fighter aviation double-order-bearing regiment. Here is the command point [shot of personnel at command post]. From here all the necessary information goes to the aircraft. The regiment in which these airmen serve was formed at the beginning of the war.

We have frequently proved on special training grounds, in the Zapad-81 and Zapad-83, exercises that we are capable of defending our homeland under any conditions.

BATITSKIY MOURNING MEETING, FUNERAL NOTED

PM231024 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 84 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Last respects. Funeral of Marshal of the Soviet Union P.F. Batitskiy"]

[Excerpts] The Armed Forces and the capital's working people yesterday bade farewell to Marshal of the Soviet Union Pavel Fedorovich Batitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet deputy, eminent Soviet military leader, and Hero of the Soviet Union.

...The Red Banner Hall of the M.V. Frunze Soviet Army Central House was draped in mourning. The coffin containing P.F. Batitskiy's body lay on a pedestal surrounded by fresh flowers.

It was 1200 hours. Comrades V.V. Grishin, G.V. Romanov, and D.F. Ustinov, members of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, came to bid farewell to Marshal of the Soviet Union P.F. Batitskiy.

A stream of people flowed past the coffin. More and more wreaths were brought into the hall. A mourning honor guard was mounted by N.K. Baybakov and L.V. Smirnov, deputy chairmen of the USSR Council of Ministers, and representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations.

Mourning music was played. A guard of honor was mounted by Marshals of the Soviet Union N.V. Ogarkov and V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense ministers; Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Army General G.K. Tsinev, first deputy chairman of the USSR KGB; and USSR Deputy Defense Ministers Chief Marshal of Artillery V.F. Tolubko, Marshal of Aviation A.I. Koldunov, Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union S.G. Gorshkov, Marshal of the Soviet Union S.K. Kurkotkin, Army General V.M. Shabanov, Marshal of Engineer Troops N.F. Shestopalov, and Army Generals A.T. Altunin and I.N. Shkadov.

Representatives of the main staff of the Warsaw Pact joint armed forces and military attaches accredited to socialist countries' embassies in the USSR came to pay profound respects to the memory of P.F. Batitskiy, eminent Soviet military leader and Hero of the Great Patriotic War.

The hall was closed to public at 1300 hours. The deceased's family and closest friends remained by P.F. Batitskiy's coffin...

At the Novodevichye Cemetery, the funeral meeting devoted to the memory of Marshal of the Soviet Union P.F. Batitskiy was opened by Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, chairman of the commission for organizing the funeral. He spoke of the deceased's glorious life, praised his personal courage and bravery, and noted his selfless devotion to the cause of the party and the people.

Marshal of Aviation A.I. Koldunov, USSR deputy defense minister, spoke of Pavel Fedorovich Batitskiy as a man of generous heart and great industry, a loyal son of the Soviet people and the Communist Party.

The funeral meeting came to an end. The notes of the Soviet anthem mingled with the echoes of the rifle salute. The coffin containing the deceased's body was laid to rest. Servicemen of the capital's garrison marched past the grave in precision formation to pay the last military honors to Marshal of the Soviet Union P.F. Batitskiy.